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Jewish sect asks to join Palestinian delegation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A sect of ultra-orthodox Jews who think Israel's existence is a sin has asked to join a Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference, the group's leader said Monday. The Neturei Karta group wants to be part of a Palestinian state it hopes will be created in a peace settlement, said Rabbi Meir Kahane. Rabbi Hirsch said Neturei Karta has 65,000 members, but reference books say the number is in the hundreds. The group was founded in 1935. Rabbi Hirsch said Palestinian leaders promised his request for representation would be taken up by the Palestine National Council at its session last month. Rabbi Hirsch said he has not received an answer and would meet Tuesday with Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini in Jerusalem to discuss the matter.

Hrawi seeks French assistance

PARIS (R) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi started an official visit to France Monday, seeking help to rebuild his country's armed forces to take over fully when Syrian troops are scheduled to withdraw next year. Mr. Hrawi lunched with President Francois Mitterrand and heavy security after his arrival. He was met by a delegation of French officials, including the defense minister, who said he would like to see Hrawi in the future. Hrawi has said he wants to revive the historic friendship with France, which ruled Lebanon and Syria between the two world wars under a League of Nations mandate, and seek aid to rebuild electricity and telephone networks ravaged by 15 years of civil war. But he pointed out that he was travelling with his defence minister, chief of paramilitary gendarmes and head of police. "To discuss what? Literature?" he asked in an interview with the daily Le Figaro. He said he would tell French authorities Lebanon's armed forces were decimated by the civil war and needed equipment and training. Lebanese forces had started deploying in South Lebanon "like beggars," using 120 old T-55 and T-31 Soviet tanks donated by Syria and 31 tanks supplied by Libya, he said.

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Jordan and PLO agree on 'working mechanism'

By Mariam Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestinians have agreed on a mechanism for cooperation that will ensure the effective representation of the interests of both parties at the Middle East peace conference to be held in Madrid on Oct. 30, senior government sources said Monday.

After weeks of deliberations and reservations on both sides about the framework for an effective coordination and working plan among the different committees and members of the joint delegation and about the extent of possible cooperation, a "working mechanism" has been agreed upon, a senior official told the Jordan Times.

The "working mechanism" is based on a Jordanian-Palestinian political agreement, which also outlines the basis of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

"The Jordanian side will have some Palestinian advisers and vice-versa in the joint delegation which will have 28 members — 14 from each side," the official said. "In this manner there will be no confusion and the negotiations will be unified in content and character," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

The two sides to the joint delegation will thus be able to keep each other informed of developments in negotiations and coordinate with each other, he said.

The Jordanian side of the delegation will have one or more Jerusalem-born Palestinians as well as Palestinians who live outside the occupied territories, the official confirmed.

The inclusion of Jerusalem-born and Palestinians living outside the occupied territories in the delegation circumstances, the Israeli refusal to deal with East Arab Jerusalemites and Palestinians in the diaspora.

Ghassan Al Khatib, a Palestinian activist, told the Jordan Times a steering committee has been drawn up of Palestinians who do not meet Israel's conditions to be included in the delegation itself (see separate story).

Israeli officials have said that what mattered to them was American assurances that no PLO members will be in the joint delegation.

As of Monday evening, no decision was made as to who will lead the delegation, but officials said it was highly likely that a senior Jordanian official, possibly the foreign minister, will be the head.

Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, the foreign minister, told reporters Monday that "we are still studying the names of Jordanians who will make up the Jordanian delegation to the peace conference, and by the end of this week, we will have a clearer picture about who will participate."

Essentially, the political agreement signed by Jordan and the Palestinians gives an influential but latent role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the negotiations so that Israel cannot torpedo the peace conference by citing its objections to dealing with the PLO.

A joint Jordanian-Palestinian higher committee has been formed headed by His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. It includes Jordanian ministers and members of the PLO Executive Committee. Sub-committees include senior officials from both sides to deal with various technical issues.

Apart from spelling out the nature and make-up of the delegation, the Jordanian-Palestinian political agreement includes other issues such as the number of participants, the number of speeches to be delivered at the peace conference and by whom they are to be read as well as presidency of the delegation, the Associated Press reported.

Soviets assure Jordan they will seek halt to Israeli settlements at start of talks

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Soviet Union, co-sponsor of the Oct. 30 Middle East peace conference in Madrid, will exert all efforts within its reach to bring about a halt in Israeli settlements simultaneously with the start of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in the Spanish capital, Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said Monday.

In official reports of Mr. Pankin's talks in Amman Sunday and Monday as well as in his own comments to the press prior to his departure for Cairo, the Soviet minister emphasised that his country viewed the Israeli settlement policy as a violation of international legitimacy and related Geneva conventions.

According to an informed source, Mr. Pankin has given an assurance to the Jordanian side that "the Soviet Union will muster as much pressure as it can and apply it on Israel to ensure that building settlements comes to a halt by the time the peace conference starts."

In comments to reporters at the airport, where Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber saw him off to

Cairo, Mr. Pankin said:

"This point (Israeli settlements) was one of the issues we discussed in Jordan, and the Soviet Union, being one of the main sponsors (of the Madrid conference), will do all it can to help solve this issue," he said. "It will be one of the important topics to be handled at the peace conference," he said.

Answering a question on Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, Mr. Pankin pointed out that the relaxed Soviet emigration policies applied to all Soviet citizens. But, he said, it is Moscow's understanding that Israel will not settle any of the Soviet Jewish emigres in the occupied territories.

Mr. Pankin and Dr. Abu Jaber described their talks in Amman as very successful and fruitful, but neither of them revealed any details of the discussions.

In discussions with Mr. Pankin, Prime Minister Taher Masi said the importance of the Soviet role in the peace process and highlighted Jordanian concern over the continuing Israeli policy of building settlements in the occupied territories.

"The participation in the peace conference of the United States and the Soviet Union affirms international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace as contained in U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," Mr. Masi was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The prime minister emphasised the "danger posed to the peace process by the continued (Israeli policy of) building of settlements," Petra reported.

Jordan believes that this issue should be given very serious attention and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which will attend the peace conference will tackle the subject in all honesty and clarity, Mr. Masi told Mr. Pankin.

"Israel's seriousness towards peace depends on how serious it deals with this important and dangerous issue," he said.

Mr. Pankin agreed that the basis for negotiations at the peace conference are Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and reaffirmed that Moscow shared an identical view with Jordan on their principles, Petra said.

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Arafat meets Mubarak, says PLO closely involved in peace talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, putting aside Gulf war differences, met for talks out of the public eye Monday in the run-up to next week's historic peace conference in Madrid.

Mr. Arafat, received by Mr. Mubarak for the first time since the start of the Gulf crisis, told a news conference with Foreign Minister Amr Musa that he appointed the principal Palestinian negotiator with the United States on terms for the next week's Middle East peace conference.

Although widely suspected, it was the first time Mr. Arafat said he appointed Faisal Husseini to represent the Palestinians in contacts with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

But at a news conference, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader made no claim that he or the PLO wanted Palestinian delegates to the superpower-sponsored conference.

Nevertheless, he said that although the PLO is physically excluded from the conference, it will be actively involved in it on two levels. Not only will the PLO coordinate closely with Palestinian delegates, he said, but the delegates effectively are representing the PLO.

Mr. Arafat discussed Mr. Husseini's appointment in response to a question whether Mr. Baker's contacts with Palestinians from inside the occupied territories meant the PLO was excluded from the peace process.

"Don't forget," Mr. Arafat said, "I appointed Husseini to head the team of pre-conference negotiations."

Mr. Arafat identified Haider Abdul Shafi, 72, as head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference but made no similar claim of appointing him.

Mr. Arafat's comments on his participation in the peace process seemed aimed at Israel, which with U.S. backing insists that the PLO be excluded from peace efforts.

Mr. Arafat spoke after conferring for 90 minutes with President Mubarak. The meeting followed Mr. Arafat's arrival from Amman for the first visit in more than 14 months.

Until agreement was reached on the peace conference, Egyptian officials had made Mr. Arafat unwelcome in Cairo because of his support of Iraq.

Mr. Mubarak last week said he would meet with Mr. Arafat only to help the peace process. Monday's meeting was kept low-key,

with Mr. Mubarak receiving Mr. Arafat at home, where reporters and media photographers are barred.

The Palestinian leader has been touring the region for strategy talks prior to the peace conference. He made his first visit to Syria in eight years before going to Jordan.

A delegation comprising Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza has been formed to attend the conference. Another group from the two territories will advise the delegation without sitting in.

Events of the past week left no doubt that the PLO leadership chose the Palestinian negotiators despite the lack of confirmation from Mr. Arafat.

Nabil Shaath, an Arafat political adviser, told the Associated Press Sunday that a PLO team will sit in the wings in Madrid to coordinate with the advisory delegation, which will be in direct contact with the negotiators.

Asked how the PLO would coordinate with the Palestinians at the conference, Mr. Arafat replied: "Don't worry. We will coordinate in an excellent way."

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Hostage freed despite Israeli attack on Hizbollah base

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese kidnappers freed American Jesse Turner Monday after holding him hostage for nearly five years, security sources said.

They said Mr. Turner was freed by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) in Lebanon at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT) and handed over to Syrian security officers.

Israel paved the way for Mr. Turner's release earlier in the day by freeing 15 Lebanese prisoners.

The security sources said 44-year-old Turner, held for 1,731 days, was being driven to Damascus where he would be handed over to U.S. diplomats at the Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Turner was the fourth Western hostage released since kidnappers called on U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to mediate a staged series of swaps of hostages for prisoners held by Israel in August.

There are up to eight remaining Western hostages in Lebanon — four Americans, two Germans and a Briton, plus an Italian, believed by diplomats and security sources to have been killed.

Mr. Turner, a computer science

and mathematics professor, was kidnapped on Jan. 24, 1987, from Beirut University College with another American academic, Alan Steen.

The IJLP announced early on Monday it would free one of them in 24 hours.

In its statement, the group said it would free an American to show its readiness to continue a comprehensive plan to free all prisoners and hostages.

Reports of Turner's release came hardly an hour after Islamic Jihad warned that renewed Israeli air raids on South Lebanon could hamper U.N. efforts to win freedom for the Western hostages.

That group claims to hold Americans Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, as well as Briton Terry Waite.

It urged Mr. Perez de Cuellar to intervene to stop an Israeli siege of villages and Israeli attacks on them.

Israeli warplanes flattened a medical base of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) near Jibsheh in revenge for the killing of three Israeli soldiers Sunday.

Israeli shelling of a string of villages in the south.

Jibsheh is the hometown of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a Hizbollah cleric kidnapped by Israeli soldiers in July 1989. He is the most prominent prisoner held by Israel who kidnappers want freed.

Islamic Jihad said Monday's air raid was a savage attack "on innocents in the village of Jibsheh."

"The enemy did not stop these inhuman practices but also escalated its attacks through a barbaric siege on villages which caused damage and harm to unarmed civilians," Islamic Jihad said.

"These acts represent a real image of the hypocritical intentions of the invading Zionist enemy and its continuation in the policy of killing, displacement and planting fear and terror in the souls of Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine," it added.

The Israeli-supported South Lebanon Army (SLA) imposed an indefinite curfew on 12 villages in southern Lebanon Monday, a day after three Israeli soldiers were killed in a bomb explosion.

Police said Israeli troops and

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Prime Minister Taher Masi Monday holds talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Jordan's position on regional talks to be decided soon, Abu Jaber says

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is hopeful that a coordination meeting of the five Arab parties directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict would be held soon and considers Egypt as an essential party in the Middle East peace process, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Monday.

Dr. Abu Jaber said he was not aware of any definite plan for the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt and the head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to meet in Damascus Wednesday ahead of the Middle East peace conference scheduled to be held in Madrid on Oct. 30.

But, he said, "we hope that this

meeting will take place since it will offer us an opportunity to unify ranks and exchange views on each other's stand."

Prospects of convening a summit conference of the leaders of the five parties were one of the key themes of talks held between His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Amman Sunday.

Egyptian newspapers quoted Cairo's foreign minister as ruling out such an Arab mini-summit prior to the peace conference.

Abdul Rahim Mallouh, a PLO Executive Committee member, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that a meeting of the five parties at ministerial level would be held in Damascus Wednesday. An unidentified Syrian official also made a similar comment.

Mahmoud Sharif, the Jordanian Information Minister, said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan had not received any official invitation to such a meeting.

"Jordan has always been an advocate of Arab coordination, particularly in the context of the Madrid peace conference," he said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said Saturday that such a meeting will take place in Damascus but he did not give a timing for the gathering, seen as crucial to Arab coordination ahead of the Madrid talks.

Dr. Abu Jaber, in comments to reporters after seeing off Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, said Jordan had not taken a final decision on whether to attend the conference.

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Hardliners step up opposition

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Hardline groups Monday called on Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories to fight U.S. plans to convene a Middle East peace conference with fists and guns.

"Let the days preceding the conference be days of rage and struggle asserting our rejection of the American comedy show," a leaflet issued by the groups said.

It was signed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the hardline wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas.

Israel, its Arab neighbours and the Palestinians are due to take part in the superpower-sponsored peace conference in Madrid on Oct. 30.

The three groups had campaigned hard against the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accepting U.S. proposals for the peace talks at which the PLO will play no direct role.

Both the DFLP and the PFLP will play no direct role.

"Let's declare our people's rejection to deal with (the American) schemes by declaring a strike on Wednesday, Oct. 23... up (with) the fists of the people and their guns and down with the imperialist, liquidationist schemes," it said.

The leftist Palestinians and Muslim fundamentalists called on their supporters among the residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to intensify their opposition to the conference.

The PLO's Fatah movement, the Communist Party and the breakaway faction of the DFLP have embraced U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's initiative and the Palestine Central Council on Oct. 18 endorsed Palestinian participation in the conference in a joint delegation with Jordan.

Claiming to represent a majority of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, the three groups could pose a serious challenge to the mainstream PLO line backing for the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Shamir says he still has to vet Palestinian team

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday he still had to ensure the proposed Palestinian delegation met Israel's terms for attending Middle East peace talks.

"This is an issue we must analyse, examine and we will see if this list meets the rules we have accepted," Mr. Shamir told a news conference before leaving for Europe where he will address the European Parliament.

"We will have to check the names and we will act accordingly," he said at the airport.

Mr. Shamir spoke after the top Palestinian negotiator at the peace talks scheduled to open in Madrid on Oct. 30 said his team would if necessary state delegates were members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"In the sense that all Palestinians have allegiance to the PLO, so they are," Haider Abdul Shafi, 72, told army radio when asked if his delegation would represent the PLO.

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Yilmaz quits as Demirel wins poll to challenge Ozal

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's premier resigned Monday and indicated the conservative Motherland Party founded by President Turgut Ozal would move into the opposition after a major setback in general elections.

Premier Mesut Yilmaz's resignation paved the way for the formation of Turkey's first coalition government since the military seized power in 1980 to end instability.

Motherland has dominated the country since military rule ended in 1983. Suleyman Demirel, head of the biggest party after the elections, said he would seek to form a centrist coalition and remove Mr. Ozal from power.

"Our evaluation of the election result is that the nation has given us the task of opposition," Mr. Yilmaz told reporters after Mr. Ozal accepted his resignation.

He said staying out of a coalition alignment would highlight his party's differences with the other parties.

The election results were unlikely to produce any major

changes in Turkey's pro-Western foreign policy and free-market economic policies.

But they were expected to end an era dominated by Mr. Ozal, a key Western ally during the Gulf war who has presided over dramatic growth in Turkey's economy and infrastructure.

The president lost support because of 70-per cent inflation and allegations of corruption and lavish living.

Mr. Ozal did not face reelection in Sunday's balloting. But his party's plunge in parliament from 274 seats to 114 deprived him of his means to wield power.

Mr. Yilmaz told reporters in Ankara that Mr. Ozal had asked him to continue head a caretaker government until Mr. Demirel, whose centre-right True Path Party (DYP) won a narrow victory at the elections, formed his new cabinet.

With over 23 million of the nearly 30 million votes counted, Mr. Demirel's DYP polled 27.3

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Palestinian delegates due here Friday

By Lamin K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is expected to arrive here Friday from the Israeli-occupied territories for coordination with the Jordanian government prior to the convening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid at the end this month.

"The delegates are due here on Friday for coordination and the joint team will leave for Madrid from Amman on October 29," said Dr. Ghassan Al Khatib, who is expected to be on the Palestinian delegation, before going back to the West Bank on Monday.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is not allowed by the U.S. and Israel to play a direct role in the peace talks, will remain the party that carry out political coordination with Jordan, Palestinian officials noted. Therefore, a high-level PLO team will also be present in Amman next week to work out final details on the joint Jordanian-Palestinian strategy at the peace talks and mechanism of the joint negotiating team, the officials added.

The main basis of coordination between Jordan and the Palestinians has been already agreed upon at a round of important talks between His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Sunday.

Prime Minister Taher Masi on Sunday also met with Dr. Khatib and Ms. Zahira Kamal, a Palestinian woman leader who is also expected to be on the Palestinian team.

Jordanian and Palestinian sources later said that some of the details of the mechanism of the joint delegation has already been agreed upon by the two leaderships (see story on this page).

According to Dr. Khatib, Jordan will lead the delegation at the opening session, while the two sides will alternate in heading the team in accordance with the issue discussed. "When the Jordanian disputes with Israel are negotiated Jordan will lead the team, when the Palestinian issues are discussed the Palestinians will lead the team," Dr. Khatib said.

Jordan has repeatedly said it will leave it to the Palestinian team to negotiate Palestinian issues with the Israelis. A 71-year-old physician and veteran political activist from Gaza, Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi, has been appointed head of the Palestinian team.

Dr. Abdul Shafi commands broad respect among all of the Palestinian trends including the groups which oppose the Palestinian participation at the peace conference.

"Dr. Abdul Shafi represents Palestinian national consensus," said Dr. Khatib.

But according to well-informed Palestinian sources, there are still differences among the various groups over the final list of Palestinian delegates.

The sources said that the present structure of the delegation bypasses and overshadows the role of the "grassroot" organisations and activists in favour of traditionalists.

A Palestinian source close to the PLO said that while 14 names will be announced only seven will play the prominent role. "Most of the seven do not represent the intifada leadership; while those who represent the intifada spirit will mostly be on the alternate list," said the source.

There are no reported objections, however, to Dr. Abdul Shafi who has been outspoken throughout the intifada.

The final list will be announced on Wednesday and Thursday. It will include representatives from the West Bank and Gaza Strip excluding Eastern Jerusalem — as stipulated by the U.S. and Israel.

But representatives of Palestinians in the diaspora will play an indirect role in a steering committee and the various technical committees. Jordan and the PLO

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Iraq's food prices hit by stiffer sanctions rumours

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi government pledged Monday to flood the market with food following a two-day surge in prices caused by wild rumours of stiffer trade sanctions to punish its defiance of the United Nations.

Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh said in remarks published by the official media that flour, sugar, rice, oil and tea would be sent to government shops for sale at state-controlled prices — about a quarter of those on the free market.

The government's Al Jumhuriya newspaper and Al Thawra, organ of the ruling Baath Party, both reported the weekend food price rises and the minister's remarks without commenting on the rumours which swept the capital at the weekend.

"Large quantities of foodstuff will flood shopping centres today," ran the headline in Al Jumhuriya in an apparent attempt to calm panic buying which continued to send food prices higher Monday.

There was little evidence that more food had reached Baghdad's markets. Traders said they had been cleaned out of goods by

frenzied weekend buying and what was on sale was at marked-up prices.

The souks of Baghdad behaved like dealing rooms during an East-West crisis at the weekend because of the sanctions-related rumours which all predicted more shortages and hardship for Iraq's 18 million people because of the U.N. trade embargo.

An Al Jumhuriya survey said that sugar had gone up from four to seven dinars per kilo and flour from three to four dinars. Residents spoke of much stiffer rises.

They also reported a sharp increase in the black market rate for dollars — at around eight to 13 dinars, compared with the official rate of one dinar to \$3.10.

The rumours varied wildly, but one often-recounted version said that the U.S. army was stopping trucks on the border with Jordan, Iraq's road lifeline, and taking off goods excluded from a U.N. Sanctions Committee shortlist.

That list allows the import of wheat, rice, sugar, tea and cooking oil but excludes meat, poultry, eggs and milk products — perhaps the most sought after commodity in a market dominated

by shortages.

Another version said the United Nations was itself doing the checking to ensure that trade curbs imposed 13 months ago to punish Iraq's invasion of Kuwait were fully effective.

Both versions said that the tightening of the embargo was a U.S.-inspired response to a defiant Iraq, who president told his nation eight days ago that Iraq "could endure sanctions for another 20 years without asking anything from anyone."

Iraq has so far rejected the terms of U.N. Resolution 706, which would allow Baghdad to sell \$1.6 billion of crude oil and import food and medicine under strict U.N. supervision.

It says sanctions are turning it into a U.N. trustship.

Vice-President Izzat Ibrahim took it up on Monday, Al Thawra said. He "has confirmed that the mother of battles is still on, as long as sanctions are imposed on Iraq, which means that those believers and strugglers will have to increase their efforts and be aware of the traps of the enemies who are aiming at the whole Arab Nation by attacking Iraq."

Tehran paper warns Spain

NICOSIA (AP) — A radical Iranian daily Monday condemned Spain's hosting of an Arab-Israeli peace conference, warning all countries of the dire consequences of facilitating the talks, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The Farsi-language Jomhuri Islami warned Madrid "not to be tempted to join the rank of the countries which support Israel."

It urged the Spanish government to "think of the consequences of becoming the venue of the Middle East conference," and warned that its "decision would certainly prompt some reaction."

The paper said any country or person that helped strengthen Israel "has in fact endorsed the suffering of the Palestinian nation and must be confident it will have to pay back dearly."

Possible acts against the conference, which is due to convene in Madrid on Oct. 30, are a major concern of the Spanish authorities as well as the United States, which has sponsored the talks.

But Jomhuri Islami said its comments were "not a threat, but the expression of a reality."

With Syria, Iran's closest Arab ally, willing to attend the talks, Iran feels isolated in its fiercely anti-Israeli stance.

Nevertheless, the elimination of Israel remains one of the cornerstones of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, which its leaders cannot be seen to disregard after building Iran up as the bastion of the Muslim World's true aspirations.

At the opening of a four-day conference in Tehran in support of the Palestinian struggle, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Saturday that Tehran was willing to send troops to fight Israel alongside the Palestinians.

But given the pressures on Mr. Rafsanjani's government to overcome daunting economic problems at home, and Tehran's bitter experience in the 1980-88 war with Iraq, his comments are unlikely to be followed through.

The commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards said Sunday that "Majlis should form an Islamic army to liberate Jerusalem, IRNA reported."

The remarks by the commander, Mohsen Rezai, came on the second day of the conference in the Iranian capital grouping Palestinian and other groups.

Mr. Rezai said such an army was needed because once the United States "destroyed" Palestine through the U.S.-Soviet backed peace conference, it would turn on Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan.

"As an army man I propose that this conference decide for a Palestinian Islamic army. I propose that each country accept the responsibility of contributing a brigade so that this Islamic army would take decisive steps in the future," he told the conference.

Ahmad Khomeini, son of the Iran's revolutionary patriarch, also told the conference that Iranian volunteer forces were ready to liberate Jerusalem.

He said the Iranian parliament (Majlis) should set up a fund for the Palestinian intifada "because the struggle against Israel is a war against the U.S. and Europe with no short end."

Also Sunday, Lebanese leader Walid Jumblatt and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati issued a joint statement condemning the peace conference.

"Israel will not give any concessions and the Arab states will not gain anything," Mr. Jumblatt told IRNA.

Turkey claims Iraq may be arming Kurdish rebels

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey's foreign minister said Sunday that Turkish Kurdish rebels had obtained anti-aircraft guns and other heavy weapons, and Iraq might be responsible.

But Sefa Giray said the government lacked enough evidence to make a formal complaint to Baghdad.

"We have been suspecting that Iraq was providing heavy weapons to the PKK," he said in a telephone interview, using the abbreviation for the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party.

"But we do not have hard evidence."

It was unclear how much support Iraq might be providing to the PKK.

During the Gulf crisis, PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan said in published interviews that Iraq had allowed him to establish bases inside Iraq to strike at Turkey. The move was apparently in retaliation for Turkey's support to the U.S.-led coalition fighting Iraq.

But Iraq's forces left northern Iraq last April when an allied coalition force established a "security zone." The region is now controlled by Iraqi Kurdish rebels, who are at odds with the PKK.

The PKK, which seeks a separate state in Turkey's southeast, has recently stepped up its attacks on Turkish military targets as the guerrillas' popular support has grown.

The rebels have also abducted Western travellers in southeast

ern Turkey, including three Americans searching for the remains of Noah's Ark. The kidnappings were apparently to press PKK's claim of sovereignty in the area. The foreigners were later released.

Turkey has responded to bloody PKK attacks on its military posts with cross-border raids into Iraq. The Turkish military's general staff announced Friday that the raids would continue when necessary, despite protests that they had killed Iraqi civilians.

Mr. Giray said that Turkish jets that recently went to Iraq to strike at PKK camps had been fired on with anti-aircraft guns.

He also said the rebels had gotten new anti-tank weapons which they used against Turkish army posts on the border. However, the guerrillas had used Soviet-designed anti-tank weapons regularly in recent years.

Serdar Kazaz, an aide to Jalal Talabani, a top Iraqi Kurdish leader, said the PKK had obtained the anti-aircraft weapons from Iraq at the end of the Gulf war.

"We know they've got them," he said in a telephone interview in Ankara.

Mr. Kazaz also said the PKK had received U.S.-made shoulder-fired Stinger missiles. But Mr. Giray denied that claim.

More than 3,000 guerrillas, soldiers and civilians have died in clashes since the PKK began its offensive in 1984.

Book: Israel blackmailed U.S. with nuclear threat

NEW YORK (R) — A new book by a U.S. investigative reporter says that Israel threatened to use nuclear weapons during the 1973 war unless Washington provided it with much-needed military supplies.

Seymour Hersh writes in his book "The Samson Option" that Israel went on two nuclear alerts during the war with Egypt and Syria.

"It was Israel's darkest hour, but no withdrawal was ordered. Instead, Israel called its first nuclear alert and began arming its nuclear arsenal. And it used that alert to blackmail Washington into a major policy change," wrote Mr. Hersh. In the book, which was published on Sunday.

Mr. Hersh said the message was conveyed by Simcha Dinitz, the Israeli ambassador to Washington to then-President Richard Nixon's national security adviser, Henry Kissinger.

He recounts how Mr. Dinitz called Mr. Kissinger for an urgent meeting, in the middle of the night, in which he said Israel leader Golda Meir was willing to come to the United States personally to plead for urgent arms aid from Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Hersh said Mr. Kissinger rejected the request outright, writing in his memoirs that "such a proposal could reflect only either hysteria or blackmail."

The third time Israel went on nuclear alert was this year when it was under missile attack from Iraq, the book said.

Mr. Hersh said his primary goal in writing the book was to state that the United States had turned a blind eye while Israel had amassed a large nuclear arsenal.

Israel has never acknowledged that it possesses nuclear weapons, though the United States and other governments have long maintained it has a substantial nuclear arsenal.

"My message is that it's not only Israel that pretends the bombs don't exist, it's the United

States, and we've got a problem," Mr. Hersh said in a telephone interview on Sunday.

"We've never treated Israeli bombs as real... and they should be dealt with," he did not elaborate.

According to Mr. Hersh, Israel has 300 or more nuclear weapons, far more than the formal U.S. intelligence estimate of less than 100.

He said Israel has tactical and strategic weapons, including more than 100 nuclear artillery shells, landmines in the Golan Heights and hundreds of low-yield weapons, warheads capable of destroying large numbers of enemy troops.

The Israeli government's general response to Mr. Hersh's allegation was to restate the formulation it always offers when asked about its nuclear programme.

"Israel is not going to be the first to introduce nuclear arms in the Middle East," the New York Times quoted Israeli defence ministry spokesman Danny Naveh as saying.

Mr. Hersh, a former New York Times staff reporter, currently works on special projects for the paper, which on Sunday first carried an account of the disclosures in Mr. Hersh's book.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman on Monday denied allegations in the book that Mr. Shamir ordered some information obtained by a spy for Israel in Washington passed on to the Soviets.

It also contends that convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence, passed American military secrets to Israel for four years, not the 18 months that U.S. prosecutors maintained.

Mr. Shamir ordered some of Mr. Pollard's information "sanitized" and passed to the Soviets, Mr. Hersh wrote.

"I tell you officially, formally and categorically that this allegation vis-a-vis Mr. Shamir is complete and absolute nonsense," Mr. Gol said, responding to a question about the book.

Text of U.S.-Soviet invitation to peace talks

FOLLOWING is the full text of the invitation issued by the United States and the Soviet Union to a Middle East peace conference to be convened in Madrid on Oct. 30, as confirmed to Reuters by sources close to the conference arrangements:

After extensive consultations with Arab states, Israel and the Palestinians, the United States and the Soviet Union believe that an historic opportunity exists to advance the prospects for genuine peace throughout the region. The United States and the Soviet Union are prepared to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement, through direct negotiations along two tracks, between Israel and Arab states, and between Israel and the Palestinians, based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The objective of this process is real peace.

Towards that end, the president of the U.S. and the president of the USSR invite you to a peace conference, which their countries will co-sponsor, followed immediately by direct negotiations. The conference will be convened in Madrid on Oct. 30, 1991.

President Bush and President Gorbachev request your acceptance of this invitation no later than 6 p.m. Washington time, Oct. 23, 1991, in order to ensure proper organisation and preparation of the conference.

Direct bilateral negotiations will begin four days after the opening of the conference. Those parties who wish to attend multilateral negotiations will convene two weeks after the opening of the conference to organise those negotiations. The co-sponsors believe that those negotiations should focus on region-wide issues such as arms control and regional security, water, refugee issues, environment, economic development, and other subjects of mutual interest.

The co-sponsors will chair the conference which will be held at ministerial level. Governments to be invited include Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Palestinians will be invited and attend as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Egypt will be invited to the conference as a participant. The European Community will be a participant in the conference, alongside the United States and the Soviet Union and

will be represented by its presidency. The Gulf Cooperation Council will be invited to send its secretary-general to the conference as an observer, and GCC member states will be invited to participate in organising the negotiations on multilateral issues. The United Nations will be invited to send an observer, representing the secretary-general.

The conference will have no power to impose solutions on the parties or veto agreements reached by them. It will have no authority to make decisions for the parties and no ability to vote on issues or results. The conference can reconvene only with the consent of all the parties.

With respect to negotiations between Israel and Palestinians who are part of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, negotiations will be conducted in phases, beginning with talks on interim self-government arrangements. These talks will be conducted with the objective of reaching agreement within one year. Once agreed the interim self-government arrangements will last for a period of five years, beginning the third year of the period of interim self-government arrangements negotiations will take place on permanent status. These permanent status negotiations, and the negotiations between Israel and the Arab states, will take place on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338.

It is understood that the co-sponsors are committed to making this process succeed. It is their intention to convene the conference and negotiations with those parties who agree to attend. The co-sponsors believe that this process offers the promise of ending decades of confrontation and conflict and the hope of a lasting peace. Thus, the co-sponsors hope that the parties will approach these negotiations in a spirit of goodwill and mutual respect. In this way, the peace process can begin to break down the mutual suspicions and mistrust that perpetuate the conflict and allow the parties to begin to resolve their differences. Indeed, only through such a process can real peace and reconciliation among the Arab states, Israel and the Palestinians be achieved. And only through this process can the peoples of the Middle East attain the peace and security they richly deserve.

Afghan governor says rebel assault on Jalalabad failing

DASHTI GAMBEERI, Afghanistan (R) — A guerrilla assault on a major Afghan provincial capital has faltered and the city's military governor said rebels cannot mount another big attack before a U.S.-Soviet arms embargo takes effect.

"There may be smaller attacks but nothing on this scale," Colonel-General Manukh Mangal told reporters visiting Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan at the weekend.

Mujahadeen casualties were so high in the past two weeks that a major attack on the city could be ruled out before the end of the year, he said.

Western diplomats in the Pakistani capital Islamabad said fresh U.S. deliveries, into the Mujahadeen weapons pipeline effectively stopped last week, although Pakistan and the guerrillas' Arab backers have not agreed to join the embargo.

Mujahadeen based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar said at the weekend they had been battered by government "carpet bombing" around Jalalabad.

Military officials in Jalalabad said 60 civilians died in five days of guerrilla rocketing while they killed an estimated 1,000 attack-

ers. Afghan casualty figures are frequently unreliable.

Travelling nearly 20 kilometres northeast of Jalalabad to the front line in the hills of Dashti Gamberi, there was little sign of intense military activity at the weekend.

"All this used to be Mujahadeen territory when the Russians were here," said government official Mohammad Nasir pointing to deserted and destroyed mud brick villages.

Forces loyal to Afghan President Mohammad Najibullah humiliated the Mujahadeen at Jalalabad two years ago when they crushed a big assault they expected to carry them to Kabul after the withdrawal of the last Soviet troops.

From the crest of Dashti Gamberi the first snow could be seen on the mountains of Kunar province, showing how little time the guerrillas have left before the harsh Afghan winter imposes its limits on the fighting.

As reporters scrambled up a hill to where several Soviet-built tanks, heavy artillery guns and multiple rocket launchers were dug in, two Mujahadeen rockets landed harmlessly 400 metres away.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programme
15:50	News Summary
15:55	Local programme
16:00	Programme review
16:05	News in Arabic
16:10	Arabic series
16:15	Programme review
16:20	Local programme
16:25	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
16:30	Clementine
16:35	Sixième Canche
16:40	News in French
16:45	French varieties
16:50	News in Hebrew
16:55	News in Arabic
17:00	Who's the Boss
17:05	Our House
17:10	News in English
17:15	Columbo
PRAYER TIMES	
06:20	Fajr
05:40	Dhuhr (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:20	Dhuhr
14:31	Az

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Meteorology	
It will be hazy and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Amman	Min/Max. temp. 15/28
Aqaba	22/36
Dead Sea	18/31
Jordan Valley	25/37
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Abdul Majid Shear	791405
Dr. Sabih Tammar	898903
Dr. Hanna Mansour	743664
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala	696408
First pharmacy	661912
Perdons pharmacy	773336
Al Aqsa pharmacy	637033
Natroukh pharmacy	626672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of	

16:00	New York, Montreal (RJ)
17:00	Cairo (RJ)
17:50	Frankfurt (RJ)
18:15	Belgrade (RJ)
19:20	Tripoli (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
12:30	Cairo (MS)
12:30	Moscow (SV)
18:30	Rome (AZ)
19:30	Beirut (ME)
11:00	Bucharest (RO)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in \$s per kg	
Apples	750/500
Bananas	500/450
Bananas (Mekemstar)	550/500
Beans	380/300
Cabbages	170/120
Cauliflowers	250/200
Cucumbers (large)	150/100
Cucumbers (small)	300/300
Eggplants	270/180
Garlic	900/800
Grapes	900/800
Onions	500/400
Lemons	250/200
Melons (large)	150/100
Melons (small)	320/250
Peas	800/500
Olives	150/120
Onions (dry)	150/120
Pepper (hot)	250/200
Pepper (sweet)	400/350
Potatoes	300/250
Sage	220/180
Spinach	250/200
Sweet melon	250/200
Tomatoes	270/220
Watermelons	150/100

Village residents, citing health hazards, demand removal of stone quarries

AMMAN (Petra) — Stone quarries in the area of Katam village, south of Irbid are polluting the atmosphere and making living conditions for the 5,000 inhabitants of the village difficult.

Citizens in the village complain that the sky over the village is usually covered with dust clouds mingled with the smoke of the exploded gun powder used in the quarries, causing health hazards in the village.

Katam Mayor Mohammad Ali Al Duweiri said that in response to demands by the citizens living in the northwestern part of the village, he presented a memorandum to the minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment in 1987 and 1988 to move the quarries to other places.

The minister at the time issued an order for the removal of the quarries to a remote area, but the orders were never implemented, Mr. Duweiri



Fayez Al Abbadi

Director of the village's health centre Karam Azrai affirmed that dust-polluted air in the area caused the spread of allergies and respiratory diseases in the village. Dr. Azrai said polluted air does not only harm people but also fruit trees and vegetables.

Irbid Governor Fayez Al Abbadi called for imposing

finer on the quarries' owners and forcing them to pay for the damages they caused to people and their properties. The governor, he said, is currently studying reports prepared by several committees. He added that these reports deal with the removal of the quarries to other areas and the compensation to farmers for their losses.

The governor said that the removal of the quarries did not take place so far because the issue is awaiting the final verdict at the specialised courts.

The Environment Department in Irbid Governorate supports the transfer of the quarries to other uninhabited areas, according to Khalaf Uqla, an official with the department. Mr. Uqla said a committee comprising specialists from the ministries of public works and environment, the governorate and the Natural Resources Authority was formed to supervise the trans-

fer of the quarries, "but so far no substitute places were found."

The owner of the biggest quarries in the area, Othman Naseef, said his machinery and equipment are operating on a land owned by him.

"Though, I am ready to move them to another area if a suitable substitute is found," he told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Naseef denied that the quarries cause the spread of diseases in the village and added that his quarries are equipped with special filters.

"Some citizens in the village are demanding the removal of the quarries from the area because they did not get compensation as did some others," Mr. Naseef said.

Another quarry owner expressed his company's readiness to move to another area provided that the government pay for the removal costs and services to the new sites.

King thanks public for support

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Court Monday issued a statement voicing His Majesty King Hussein's appreciation to members of the public for their support to his announcement that Jordan was attending the peace conference and backing his policies as contained in his nationwide address to the People's Congress earlier this month.

The statement said that King Hussein sends his greetings, gratitude and appreciation to the Jordanian people who expressed their allegiance and support to him through the media and other means. The statement voiced King Hussein's determination to pursue all efforts to serve the Jordanian people and the Arab Nation at large.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, Jordan Television and newspapers have been publishing Jordanian people's views in support of the King's policies and the King's stand with regard to the Middle East process.

Numerous interviews were held with people of all walks of life including heads of political groups, unions, and ordinary citizens who voiced their support for the King's leadership and wished him success in his endeavour to reach a just and honourable peace.

Prince Raad recognised for work with handicapped

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Veterans Federation (WVF) has decided to present Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid with an award in recognition of his services to handicapped people in Jordan and his supervision of rehabilitation programmes for handicapped civilians and former servicemen.

The Prince will go to Helsinki to receive the award which is to be presented Sunday at a special ceremony, according to an announcement Monday.

Price Raad is chairman of the Jordanian Federation of the Handicapped and has been spearheading national efforts to provide various types of services to handicapped people.

Founded in 1950, the WVF aims at maintaining international peace and security by the application of the San Francisco Charter and helping to implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related international conventions. It also aims at defending the spiritual and material interests of war veterans and victims and seeks to promote practical international cooperation in fields of disarmament, human rights problems, economic development, rehabilitation of the handicapped, accessibility of the man-made environment, legislation concerning war veterans and victims.

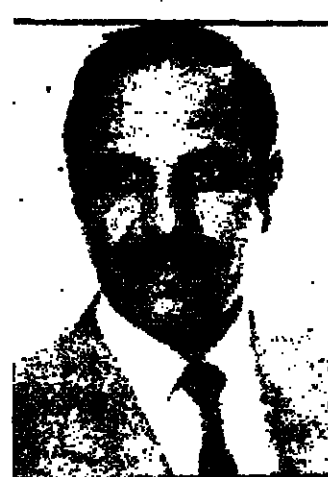
The WVF groups 60 member states with more than 20 million war veterans and war victims.

Jordan repeats call for assistance from international community

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan again Monday issued an urgent appeal for international aid to help resettle the returnees from Kuwait and other Gulf states and said that the Kingdom lacks the means to offer the necessary services to the returning people.

"We are in constant touch with countries friendly to Jordan and also with the United Nations and other world organisations to come to the aid of Jordan, which is now confronting a serious humanitarian issue of unprecedented proportions," said Salameh Hammad, chairman of the government-appointed returnee affairs committee.

Between Aug 6, and Oct 21 a total of 35,860 people have returned from Kuwait alone, said Mr. Hammad, who is also Minister of Interior secretary general. During and after the Gulf crisis Jordan was estimated to have had an influx of more than 300,000 Jordanian and Palestinian returnees from Kuwait. Several meetings were organised by the committee to find means of helping the displaced people.



Salameh Hammad

The committee has so far offered the needy returnees whatever it has received in assistance from various voluntary organisations in Jordan and abroad, said Mr. Hammad in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The volume of aid offered through the committee for the benefit of the returnees did not reach the level of real requirements of food

and medicine that the majority of expatriates need daily, Mr. Hammad said.

He said that the expatriate problem cannot be addressed except through comprehensive programmes designed to incorporate the expatriates within the Jordanian economy, enabling the skilled expatriates to benefit the local community.

The comprehensive programmes needed far exceed Jordan's financial means, and the Kingdom is in dire need of international assistance, Mr. Hammad added. He expressed hope that world organisations and friendly nations will come to the aid of Jordan.

Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz said last month that Jordan was in need of at least \$4.5 billion over the next five years to cope with the huge population increase. He told Reuters that the influx from the Gulf has caused Jordan's population to grow by 10 per cent and that the country will be in need of funds to provide for the essential services for the additional number of people.

Joint Jordanian-Iranian investment seminar being organised in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Industry Monday announced that plans are underway for convening a joint Jordanian-Iranian investment seminar in Amman grouping investors, economists and businessmen from the two countries.

The announcement was made by Chamber President Khalidoun Abu Hassan, who is just back from a tour of Iran and Turkey where he discussed means of bolstering Jordan's economic and trade ties with the two countries.

The investment seminar aims at further developing Jordan's economic and trade ties

with Iran, Mr. Abu Hassan said. During his stay in Tehran, Mr. Abu Hassan and his accompanying delegation attended the opening of the Tehran International Fair and discussed with Iranian businessmen joint Jordanian-Iranian industrial ventures and cooperation in trade and transport.

He said he had agreed with the Iranians on the formation of a committee to meet every six months in Amman or Tehran to follow up the implementation of joint economic activities.

Mr. Abu Hassan said he signed a memorandum of

understanding with Iranian officials providing for trade exchanges. Agreement was also reached by the two sides to operate direct flights between Amman and Tehran and to pave the way for cooperation in aviation fields, Mr. Abu Hassan added.

The visit to Tehran followed last month's trip there by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheeb, who reached agreement with Iranian ministers on a number of procedures designed to open the way for cooperation between the private and public sectors in the two countries.

German official in Jordan to promote economic, touristic ties

By Nur Sadi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A high ranking member of the Jordan-German Friendship Association in Germany is currently on a 10-day visit to Jordan to seek means of bolstering Jordan-German relations at touristic and economic levels.

At this moment, the visiting member, who preferred not to be identified, said that he is in the country primarily to establish contacts in the touristic and economic fields for possible future cooperation.

The Jordan-German Friendship Association was established in the 1960's under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. The objective of the association is to foster Jordanian, German relations. It is a non-profit society, highly dependent on voluntary members, fees and donations. It now has about 800 members in Germany.

"The society's strength is mainly exercising a sort of influence on German economic or political societies due to members and their (influential) positions," said the visiting member.

He recalled that the society

was able to organise emergency aid to refugees in Jordan after the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict and during the Gulf war and crisis.

Although the member did not have figures on the extent of emergency aid, he said that "a plane load of medical aid was brought in during the Gulf war."

Germany is interested in finding ways of assisting Jordan, especially now because of economic hardships caused by the Gulf war. "Germans have a continuous concern for Jordan and we are trying to continue (assisting the Kingdom) by getting together with Jordanian authorities," he said.

The member of the Jordan-German association has held talks with the minister of tourism, the minister of industry, trade and supply, the National Trust, Royal Jordanian Airlines officials, some hotels and travel agents as well as members of German institutions.

New YWCA president elected

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA's) general assembly has elected Laila Najjar as president of the YWCA Council and Rose Muasher as vice president. Mrs. Najjar succeeds Salwa Shweihat, who chaired the YWCA's Council over the last two years.

Director of Zakat Fund calls for increased donations to help poor

AMMAN (Petra) — The Zakat (alms for the poor) Fund is trying to make it compulsory for every Muslim to offer financial or in-kind contributions to the poor through the fund and the project would be incorporated within programmes carried out by the National Aid Fund (NAF), according to Zakat Fund Director Ahmad Al Zoghbi.

The fund could be collecting the donations from people through the charitable and voluntary societies once the law on zakat has been put into force, Mr. Zoghbi said.

The need for stimulating the fund's activities has increased because at least 30 per cent of the Jordanian people live under the poverty line as proved by recent statistics in the wake of the Gulf crisis, he said.

The Zakat Fund, which came into being for the first time in 1945, is governed by a board of directors and has semi-independent status from rest of government departments in terms of management and finance, Mr. Zoghbi said.

He urged members of the public to offer contributions to the poor and said that whatever is given to the poor through the Zakat Fund will be tax-deductible.

At present, the fund has 170 committees in Jordan and the occupied West Bank, with at least 48 committees operating in the Amman area. The Zakat Fund, which collects contributions mainly from private citizens, last year gave a total of JD 171,159 to the poor and in the first eight months of 1991 has given a total of JD

100,000, Mr. Zoghbi said. Apart from giving lump sums, the Zakat Fund helps needy families to start businesses and also offers JD 50 a month to the family of an unmarried martyr and JD 85 to the family of a married martyr.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib, whose ministry supervises the work of the Zakat Fund said that the fund's board are personalities well known for their integrity, honesty and piety. The fund aims to offer assistance to the poor and alleviate their sufferings in line with the teachings of Islam, the minister said.

The minister said that directives have been issued to mosque preachers to direct the worshippers towards extending a helping hand to the poor.

Mohammad's Army trial resumes

By Ahmad Krehlah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The State Security Court in Marka Monday resumed its examination of cases in which the self-styled Prophet Mohammad's Army is involved.

A total of nine witnesses for the public prosecutor were on the stand giving testimony about the arrest and the interrogation of the accused.

The witnesses are all members of the security forces, and the court was told that they carried out the main part in discovering the extremist group whose members have allegedly committed a number of terrorist activities in the country and planned to assassinate a number of personalities and diplomats.

The nine witnesses related the manner in which the 18 accused were arrested and detailed the types of explosives and weapons found in their homes.

The session became heated once the lawyers for the defence started questioning the witnesses who gave details about the places where the group members hid the weapons, the leaflets they were distributing and their training in the use of weapons to carry out their activities.

At the outset of the session the leading lawyer for the defence, Hussein Mjalli, submitted a request to the court demanding the release of the detainees, repeating his earlier argument that the arrest procedures and detention were illegal and the accusations baseless.

The defence protested to the court over the detention of the accused in a military prison; they claimed detention was inconvenient and illegal and none of those standing trial was member of the military establishment.

Judge Yousef Faouri said the jail conditions were convenient and the prisoners were visited by representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) who verified the suitability of the facilities.

The judge said that representatives of the London-based human rights organisations Amnesty International were visiting the prisoners Tuesday.

At the end of the session Judge Faouri announced that the court would reconvene Wednesday to pursue examination of the cases.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister receives Chinese official

AMMAN (Petra) — Planning Minister Ziad Fariz Monday discussed with Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Zhang Liang economic and commercial relations between Jordan and China and ways of enhancing them. In a meeting at the Planning Ministry, Dr. Fariz and Mr. Liang discussed projects that might be financed by a JD 6 million Chinese loan extended to Jordan. The JD 6 million is part of a JD 10 million loan of which a sum of JD 4 million was used to finance the purchase of products and commodities for the Civil Consumers Corporation. The meeting was attended by the Ministry's Secretary General Safwan Touqan.

Art exhibition to open

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath an exhibition of water colour paintings by Australian artist Jennifer Bowker will be opened Wednesday at Alia Art Gallery. The exhibition will remain open until Oct. 30.

Environmental seminar to be held

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Society for Combating Environmental Pollution will hold a seminar on "Industry and the Environment" on Nov. 6 at the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Abdul Rauf Shammouh, Khalid Kireis and Mohammad Hameed Abdullah at Abdul Hameed Shammouh Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Imad Khayyat, Mohammed Abdullah, Khater Mohammed, Ali Moudalawi, Khalid Wali and Hisham Ali at Baladina Art Gallery (located at the beginning of Garden Street from Safway).
- ★ Art exhibition by Fadia Jalal Nabulsi at the British Council.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Sina Ata at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Sheikh Ibrahim — Johann Ludwig Burchardt (1784-1917)" at the reception hall of the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists Ghassan Abu Laban, Haffi Basmam, Akhbar Abu Jada and Samia Haddi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ German film entitled "Rhapsomende" (English subtitled) at Goethe Institute — 8 p.m.

The Jordanian Scandinavian Friendship Association

under the patronage of Their Royal Highnesses
Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid and Princess Majda Ra'ad Bin Zeid

is pleased to invite members and non-members to the annual

GALA DINNER

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Freddy Daoud will play the piano for your entertainment during the dinner.

After dinner, dance the night away to your "old favourites," records specially selected by Fowaz Abu Larna.

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the Middle East:
Orientalist scenes

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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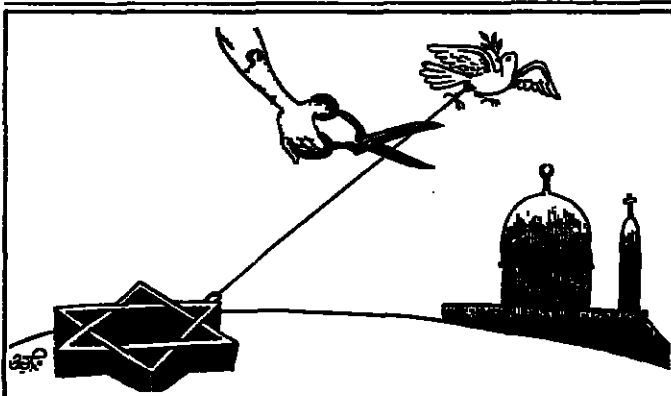
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Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Abandon gun-boat diplomacy

WHILE THE world celebrated the news that Middle East antagonists have agreed to attend a peace conference in Madrid on Oct. 30, Israeli warplanes raided a Hizbollah post in South Lebanon. On the eve of the Israeli government's decision to attend the peace talks, an Israeli military court sentenced Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin for life plus 15 years. And in the past two weeks Israeli reconnaissance planes were reported overflying Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. While everyone is bracing for peace, Israel continues to flex its muscle and to create a war-like atmosphere. These Israeli actions can only be viewed by the Arabs as attempts at sabotaging the forthcoming peace conference. Both Sheikh Yassin and the Hizbollah party in Lebanon, together with other Islamic groups in the Arab World, maintain that the Jewish state has no interest in peace and no intention to relinquish occupied territory whether in Palestine, Syria or Lebanon. Israeli actions only give credence to the Islamists' arguments. Obviously the Israelis want to push its antagonists to commit desperate actions that would derail the peace process while offering the pretext to Israel to blame the Arab side for failure of peace efforts. The Israelis have done this in the past, especially before every major war they waged against the Arabs.

Arab leaders have been calling on Israel to abandon its doctrine of force in the region and opt instead for peace. The Arabs will not accept Israel in their midst as long as the Israeli leaders maintain their belief in their might. The Arabs will not accept Israel's hold on Arab lands because of Israeli power and bullying. Israel should not expect that the Arabs will negotiate in Madrid or elsewhere while the Israeli air force flies Arab skies and raids Arab villages. The barriers between Arabs and Israelis and Muslim and Jew are many and Israeli actions only add to them. The time is ripe for dismantling the old walls between the two peoples. The opportunity is here and Israel will be better advised to reflect and to veer towards peace and reconciliation.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Monday said that the Middle East peace conference is not the last chance for the Arabs and the Israelis to end the conflict that lasted 25 years, it is rather the first and serious opportunity for a just and lasting peace. The paper said that it is the first time that the Israelis agree to sit face to face with the Arabs to discuss the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, and it is the first time that a U.S. administration honours its promises and pursues uninterrupted efforts towards peace in this region. Of course one has to admit that missing this chance would be a devastating blow to the peoples of the region, but it is hoped that this first serious chance would not be lost, the paper added. The peace conference, the paper continued, would no doubt expose the real intentions of the Israeli government whether to abide by the international legitimacy or to continue its mutiny against the will of the world community and thus undermine the U.S.-sponsored new world order. The paper said that Washington is now offered a golden opportunity to prove its credibility, not through the use of force, as it did with Iraq, to force it to comply with U.N. resolutions, but through negotiations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Monday dwelt on the Amman Financial Market's prospects in light of the current talk about peace in the region. Mohammed Jaber said he was optimistic that the market would soon become very active again as there are good opportunities for the investors at the moment. In the past week, Jaber said, the financial market witnessed a sudden spate of activity, following agreement among the Middle East parties to take part in a peace conference. He said peace and stability, or even talk about them, were bound to be beneficial for the market's daily operations. The establishment of peace in the Middle East and the return of international financial aid to Jordan, to compensate the country for its huge losses sustained during the Gulf crisis, would no doubt bring about real boom to the country's economy, said Jaber. Stability and peace, he said, would no doubt open the way for the share-holding companies to promote their businesses and flourish. He said the industrial sector in particular is invited now to benefit from the situation and to embark on projects that would not only earn them good profits, but would also contribute to the development of the national economy. The writer said that the current low prices of companies encourage investments and buying and selling operations. He said that the investors would be wise enough to seize the golden opportunity now and take a step that would ensure their success in the years to come.

The View From Fourth Circle

Time to end the games that kill

By Rami G. Khouri

THE Middle East peace conference that will be inaugurated in Madrid on Oct. 30 is a hard pill to swallow for many Arabs who see it as a culmination of the process of Arab defeat and surrender at the hands of the Israeli-American combine. Many Arabs feel we should not attend the conference, or that we will get nothing out of it. I think this is wrong, too pessimistic, and historically invalid.

If we approach the peace conference in such a negative and vulnerable state of mind, we might as well not go. The truth — at least as I see it — is far more comforting, and, ironically, it coincides with some of the strident statements being made by the far right in Israel. These people say that peace talks with the Arabs will lead to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, a Palestinian state or something close to it, and perhaps even the end of Israel. Things are not quite so simple or so linear, but I am optimistic and enthusiastic about the peace conference for the following reasons:

1. The peace conference probably represents the first serious international effort since the turn of the century to define and contain Zionism. Ever since European Jewish settlers started coming to Palestine at the turn of the century, the geographic and demographic frontiers of Zionism and the state of Israel have never been formally defined — either by Israel itself or by the rest of the world. The peace conference may require further concessions from the Arabs in the short-term, and those concessions should be made with grace and confidence — because the short-term goal of checking and then neutralising the predatory nature of Zionism is worth the short-term price we are asked to pay. It is vitally important now to rescue as much of Palestine and Palestinian rights as is possible — which means aiming for the best deal we can get, rather than continuing to demand naively for the total national rights we claim. This is not a poker game in which we go for all or nothing.
2. Such short-term compromise is necessary because it will pay dividends in the long term, and if we have learned anything in the Middle East it is that political drama is a long-term process. This is not the time to be naively impatient, or to react from emotional stress. This is the moment to put emotions in our back pocket, and to address the issues before us with an extra dose of dispassionate rationality. Emotionalism and an exaggerated sense of honour have brought us chronic failure in the Arab World, along with some well entrenched police states, a few totalitarian oligarchies, and several states living perpetually on the brink of collapse (Sudan, Lebanon, Somalia, and, in the next half a decade, probably Egypt). We deserve and need something better in the Arab World, which is why we have two priorities vis-a-vis the peace talks. The first is to stop the total colonisation of Palestine by Jewish settlers from Brooklyn and Moscow, provide a focal point for the exercise of Palestinian national rights, and rid the region of the pressures and costs of the conflict with Zionism. The second is to stop the political confusion within the Arab World itself, and allow the Arab people to get on with their quest for political systems that are more participatory, democratic, responsive and humane. An end to war in Palestine and movement on Arab democratisation and integration will bring us into a whole new world in this region in the next decade — a better world in which Arab dignity and productivity are restored, and the question of the status

of the several million Jews amongst us is no longer a brake on the development of our region.

3. The mechanics of the peace conference will soon prove reasonable for the Arabs, because for the first time since the start of the Palestinian-Zionist struggle in 1896 we have the following situation: direct Arab-Israeli negotiations are taking place in a political context that is based on the internationally sanctioned demand for exchanging land for peace. The entire world accepts the Palestinian right of self-determination, and demands that Israel withdraw from our occupied lands. Yet, the world has made it clear that it will do nothing to bring these two objectives about unless we all sit on a negotiating table and work out the details. The advent of such a negotiating table will see Israel badly isolated from the rest of the world. It will try its old tricks of diverting attention from the core issues, stalling, lying, obfuscating, and anything else it deems appropriate to avert the day of reckoning — the day when it must withdraw from the lands it occupied in 1967, and coexist with a self-determining Palestinian people living in freedom on Palestinian soil. Israel will find itself under intense international pressure to live within defined borders — and it and the Palestinian national entity will enjoy all necessary international security guarantees.
4. The negotiations will shift the terms of reference of the Palestinian-Zionist or Arab-Israeli conflict from Israel's U.S.-backed military superiority to the arena of legal rights and moral dictates — an arena in which we are far more powerful than the Israelis. In a structured negotiation based formally on the principles of resolutions 242 and 338, we have the opportunity at last to translate the powerful international support for Palestinian rights into tangible facts. The conference provides the mechanism to shift the centre of gravity of the Middle East conflict from Israel's military arguments, to our arguments about the need to implement U.N. resolutions. There are dozens and dozens of U.N. resolutions condemning Israel's illegal actions in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. In a negotiating context, those resolutions provide us with moral and legal firepower. Our challenge is to use them effectively, and to refuse to fall into the traps that Israel will keep trying to set for us — traps such as yesterday's Israeli criticism of Syria for the attacks against Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon. Here is a good case study of Israeli diversionary tactics in action. Israel wants to brand the Arabs as terrorists and inveterate killers who wish only to drink the blood of Jewish children, and it wants to lay a moral claim for its own security as enjoying a greater priority than the rights or security of the Arabs. What is our appropriate response? First, pity for Israeli leaders so psychologically ravaged that they have brought three millennia of Jewish morality to the point where its sharpest focus is on warfare and guns. Second, composure and a steady diplomatic focus on the real issues at hand, which are the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights, in this case. Third, we do the James Baker Diplomatic Tango — recalling what he himself said on a visit to Yemen last autumn, during the Gulf crisis, we simply repeat his words, to the effect that this conflict is all about the credibility of U.N. resolutions. If the Israelis do not want their soldiers killed in southern Lebanon, those soldiers should not be in southern Lebanon. Isn't that more or less what the world said about Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait, or

does my memory play tricks on me? Or is there a special U.N. morality for Israel and another for the Arabs? We shall soon find out.

5. As the world focuses on the core conflict in Palestine and the issue of land and sovereignty, and seeks to resolve it by implementing U.N. resolutions calling on Israel to withdraw, end its settlements, and stop its illegal practices that deny the Palestinians their human rights, the Israelis will panic. They have started to do so, because they understand, perhaps better than most of us do, that this peace conference is the beginning of the end of the Israeli game that has lasted for nearly a century — the game of claiming superior moral rights, national claims, security interests, and historical patrimony. Israel is being asked to live by the same rules that other states and people live by. It has never been able to do so since 1947, and will have a hard time learning to do so. But in the end it will have to do so, or else risk perpetual conflict in this region. Such conflict will see it one day destroyed in a blaze of guns, as all other foreign colonial experiments in the Arab World have been destroyed with time. Why should the Israelis be the only people in the world who can use military force to forever subjugate the majority amongst whom they live? It is not possible, and it will not happen. The Israelis can either come to terms with their greater Arab/Islamic environment now and accept peace terms that give them the security they demand — or they can keep collecting nuclear bombs and get ready to die along with us in a great nuclear holocaust one day in the early years of the 21st century. There is no alternative. Perpetual Arab subjugation to Zionist frenzy is not possible. Either we all enjoy equal national rights, or none of us lives in peace and security. I suspect the majority of Israelis would choose peace with the Arabs, based on equal justice for Israelis and Arabs, rather than eternal warfare. The Madrid peace conference is the most serious international effort this century to achieve the goal of equal justice for Arabs and Israelis. Should it succeed, Israel will have to come to terms with life as a normal state, rather than an imperial one. With time, in a peaceful and productive Middle East, Israelis will revert to their ancient role — a small Jewish minority living in a large, powerful and ancient Arab/Islamic World, a world that has always considered them part of its heritage, and its future. The Israelis will have a hard time making the adjustment from super state to boring, normal state. They will be unwilling to give up the self-declared moral privileges they claim according to their self-generated status as God's chosen people. They will be pained to learn that their game is over, and that we must all live as God's children, equally loved by him. This runs against everything that Jews and Israelis have been taught for the last several thousand years. They have told themselves that they are special, distinct, chosen. The world will tell them at Madrid that they are none of these things, that they are one state among nearly 200 others in the world. They can fantasise all they want about special morality and a higher calling in the realm of the heavens, but here on earth they must live according to the rules of man — and the rules of man apply equally to all people. This is the significance of what will happen at Madrid. Let us hope it succeeds, for if it does all of us in the Semitic family shall be equal winners, and we can all stop playing games that kill.

Serbia faces isolation both home and abroad

By Dusan Stojanovic

The Associated Press
BELGRADE — Serbia's rejection of a plan that would turn Yugoslavia from a nation torn by civil war into a loose alliance of sovereign states threatens to worsen the republic's isolation at home and abroad.

Hardline Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic rejected the European Community plan at a peace conference Friday in the Hague, the Netherlands.

More than 1,000 people have died in fighting that began in the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia when the republic declared its independence June 25. It pits

Croatian troops against ethnic Serb militants and the Serb-dominated Federal Army.

Among the compromises proposed in the EC plan, Serbia would have to recognise rival Croatia's existing borders and independence.

Except for Serbia, all of Yugoslavia's six republics, included the close Serbian ally Montenegro, accepted the plan. They called it imperfect but said rejecting it could lead to full-scale war.

Mr. Milosevic said the plan is unacceptable because it "annuls Yugoslavia as a country" and rejects the possibility of changing its internal borders, which he said

"are administrative" and not permanent. Mr. Milosevic favours making Yugoslavia a centralised federation.

The proposed EC ban on changing borders conflicts with Mr. Milosevic's apparent aim of expanding Serbian territory at the expense of neighbouring Croatia.

Mr. Milosevic said the EC proposal has to be "reworked" before it would be acceptable to Serbia. Yugoslavia's leaders are scheduled to meet with EC officials in the Hague again on Oct. 25.

Mr. Milosevic's hardline stands, which have contributed to

the breakup of Yugoslavia, have so far been fully supported only by Montenegro, the smallest republic.

In a reversal, Montenegro's President Momir Bulatovic voted for the EC plan on Friday.

This indicated a serious rift between Serbia and Montenegro, both ruled by socialists, and increased Serbia's political isolation in Yugoslavia.

In a statement to the state Tanjug news agency, Mr. Bulatovic said by accepting the EC proposal he voted for the peaceful resolution of the Yugoslav crisis and against "radical" solutions advocated by Serbia.

The European Community, a leader in efforts to resolve the crisis, has said the warring republics must reach an agreement within two months. If not, the EC said, the community's 12 member nations would recognise Croatia and it secessionist ally Slovenia.

Several EC officials have said that if Serbia continues to block the agreement, it faces tough political and economic sanctions. Throughout the fighting, Serbia has insisted that Croatia's

Serb minority would be persecuted if Croatia is permitted to split from Yugoslavia. Croatia has accused Serbia of using the Serb minority issue to obscure its drive to grab Croatian territory. Many of Croatia's 600,000 Serbs say they do not want to remain in an independent Croatia, invoking the memory of the hundreds of thousands of Serbs they say were slaughtered by a Nazi puppet government during World War II.

Israel seeks foreign investment to help settle Soviet immigrants

By Miriam Jordan
Reuters

JERUSALEM — Israel, desperate for cash to settle up to a million Soviet immigrants, is seeking to lure foreign investors with an array of financial inducements.

But hard-headed industrialists say only the success of Middle East peace talks and liberalisation of Israel's state-dominated economy will bring in the foreign funds.

Normally conservative businessmen and economic officials have been unusually outspoken in questioning Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's handling of an economy plagued by high inflation, low foreign investment and a chronic budget deficit.

At the same time relations with the United States, Israel's biggest aid donor, have soured over U.S. attempts to convene an Arab-Israeli peace conference by the end of October.

Washington, which pumps in more than \$3 billion a year in economic and military aid, has postponed, \$10 billion of loan guarantees that Israel needs to house an exodus of Soviet Jews until after the conference.

"The political factor is essential. The government offers great packages but until there is a peace treaty there will not be masses of foreign investment," said Jonathan Kolber, president of Claridge Israel Inc, part of Canada's Bionfarm Group.

The group, which is a major

shareholder in Du Pont and Seagram, has \$300 million invested in Israel. Mr. Kolber said that before the Gulf war, Claridge was competing with several foreigners to buy a chunk of Israel's Osem food group.

"When the war broke out, most of our competitors quit because they were too nervous," he said.

"Clearly the prospect of peace negotiations is extremely important. Even if they go on for 25 years, it's enough. Once we go towards solving the conflict, this is what matters," said Dov Frohman, head of U.S.-owned computer firm Intel Israel.

Dov Lautman, president of Israel's manufacturers Association, agrees: "I would like to hope our leadership will take into account that political stability is a condition for foreign investment in Israel. And without foreign investment it will be very difficult (to settle the immigrants)," he said.

Soviet immigration is expected to swell Israel's workforce by a third by the mid-1990s. Israel needs to create half a million new jobs and raise growth to 13 per cent a year to accommodate the influx, the Trade and Industry Ministry says.

While local business investment is keeping pace with population growth — 17 per cent in 1990 and an expected 24 per cent in 1991 — it falls well short of Israel's projected needs.

"You might say that our biggest economic priority today is to attract foreign investment," said

Amos Rubin, economic adviser to Mr. Shamir.

Domestic capital accounts for more than 95 per cent of investment in Israel. Only one per cent of Israeli workers are employed by foreign firms, compared with 10 per cent in Belgium and Singapore and three per cent in the United States.

Last year the government introduced tax breaks and a financial risk-sharing scheme to attract foreign funds.

But bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel says Israel must curb inflation and state intervention in the economy.

"To create an atmosphere conducive to investment there must be an atmosphere of economic stability. The inflation issue must be confronted," he told a recent foreign investment seminar.

International Business Machines Corp, Motorola Inc, Digital equipment Corp, Vishay Intertechnology Inc and National Semiconductor Corp are among high-technology companies here. But all came before hyperinflation gripped Israel in the 1980s. Annual inflation was 18 per cent in 1990 and is expected to exceed 20 per cent this year.

Industrialists praise workers' commitment and skills.

Engineers and technicians make up 15 per cent of the workforce, one of the highest ratios in the world. Newcomers from the cream of the Soviet industrial and academic world will boost the figure.

But Israel faces stiff competition from low labour-cost nations

like Mexico and Thailand.

It has also failed to attract European and Japanese investors, who have been more inclined to abide by an Arab boycott — although it has weakened since the Gulf war.

The Japanese have acquired a few small local electronic firms and Japan recently set up an office for an envoy from its powerful International Trade and Industry Ministry.

Israel aims to sell inefficient state firms but has met only 10 per cent of its privatisation target in the past two years.

It still owns more than 150 companies employing about 25 per cent of the workforce. The heavily indebted labour trade federation, Histadrut, owns about a quarter of Israel's factories and employs another 18 per cent of the workforce.

"Among foreign investors state intervention ... is a sign of socialism," said Eli Horvitz, president of Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, a private firm.

The government often retains control over companies by selling only a small percentage of their shares.

"Privatisation has become a symbol the world over. It's the first question investors ask. When we tell investors there has been progress, they want to know if the government will continue to control the companies it sold or not," Mr. Frenkel said.

"When the political clouds clear, the economic issues will return to centre stage. We have to face it," he said.

LETTERS

Sheikh Yasin and Israeli 'justice'

To the Editor:

ONE could hardly believe one's eyes seeing, on the TV news, a disabled old man being sentenced by an Israeli court to life plus 15 years imprisonment. The justification for such a harsh sentence was said to be the verdict that the old man, Sheikh Ahmad Yasin, posed a threat to Israel's security. Furthermore, the same old man had been in Israeli detention awaiting the trial for more than two and a half years, and his trial, was postponed several times. During his detention, he was harassed, tortured and beaten, and his health situation deteriorated. He had to be taken to the military hospital several times.

Israel's brutality has set a record. The Jews who claim to be victims of Nazi practices are exceeding all bounds in inflicting physical and psychological injury on Palestinian detainees. Indiscriminate shooting of civilians, demolition of houses, confiscation of lands, detention of tens of thousands of men, women, children and elderly citizens, and the deportation of scores of activists are all examples of Zionist repressive measures.

The issue of Sheikh Ahmad Yasin is a special case. It deserves world attention. His detention and sentence by Zionist captors constitute an overt violation of human rights and of international norms and laws. It is evident that the Israelis meant to try Sheikh Yasin at this particular time in order to escape world attention, since most of the attention has been directed by the preparations for the peace conference.

It is most regrettable that the United States, the Soviet Union, and other European states which co-sponsor the peace process have made no attempt to intervene in order to save the disabled, ill and elderly Sheikh Yasin. Such powers could at least have shown some concern if they were really anxious about the accomplishment of a permanent, just settlement in the Middle East.

The trial of Sheikh Yasin has proven beyond doubt that the Zionist occupation authorities are not serious about achieving a lasting just settlement in the region. If this is the Israeli sense of justice, no peaceful settlement can ever be guaranteed to endure.

Azzam Tamimi,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Stand on regional talks to be decided soon

(Continued from page 1)

multi-party discussions on issues such as water resources, regional disarmament and the environment before reaching a peace agreement with Israel.

"We are still studying this issue and we have not taken a final decision," Dr. Abu Jaber said. "We hope by the end of this week things will be clearer."

Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians have said that they would not take part in such talks prior to Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

According to PLO officials, one of the agreements reached between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in talks in Damascus Saturday was that both sides saw the talks, proposed to begin two weeks after the opening of the Madrid conference on Oct. 30, as a first step towards peace with Israel. In addition, the status of the residents of the occupied Gaza Strip who hold Egyptian documents is believed to be one of the topics that have to be discussed with Egyptian involvement with Israel.

Asked how Jordan viewed an assertion by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that his country would attend the Madrid conference only as an observer, Dr. Abu Jaber said: "Egypt is not an observer. On the contrary Egypt is (an essential) party to the peace process and we are hoping to seek its help at the conference," he did not elaborate.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa told reporters in Cairo Monday that Egypt was not going to be a mediator at the conference but would assume such a role if explicitly requested by others.

"We are part of the Arab position," Mr. Mousa said. "We have the advantage that we can talk with Israel at any time. But if we are asked to help, Egypt will then play the role of mediator."

The Egyptian announcement that it will be an observer at the conference has come as a surprise, particularly that many expected Egypt, the only Arab country to have made peace with Israel, to assume a prominent role in the parley. In addition, the status of the residents of the occupied Gaza Strip who hold Egyptian documents is believed to be one of the topics that have to be discussed with Egyptian involvement with Israel.

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As business booms, security firm sheds cloak-and-dagger image

By Peter Millership
Renter

LONDON — Legal problems are for lawyers, image problems, for public relations firms. But who do companies call when the problem is kidnapping?

"Abduction is unfamiliar to most people," says Simon Adams-Dale, a director of the London-based firm Control Risks. "It's quite familiar to us."

Founded in 1975 and headed at the outset by ex-commandos of Britain's elite Special Air Service (SAS), Control Risks says it has dealt with more than 200 kidnappings in places like El Salvador, Colombia and Italy and in parts of Asia.

Some of the abduction lasted only a week. Others dragged on for up to 622 days.

With more than 2,000 clients worldwide and profits up 19 per cent last year, Control Risks' 170 staff are drawn from police, cus-

tom and intelligence services, as well as the military.

The group is retained by Cassidy, Davis Ltd, a Lloyd's underwriter which specialised in kidnapping and ransom policies.

Critics of K and R policies say the insurance encourages kidnappings. And they question whether private covert operations are legal.

But Control Risk executives say their work is within the law and note that its board is drawn from the heart of Britain's establishment.

Last year, the company had a pre-tax profit of £1.2 million (\$2 million) on turnover of £7.6 million (\$13 million).

It says it was bombarded with requests for help from 350 firms because of the Gulf war.

"During the crisis, Control Risks supplied services to its clients, in relation to a given threat," the company says. "Since the conclusion of the war,

Control Risks has been offering assistance to companies seeking to regenerate in the region."

The company is reluctant to discuss details of its cases, but some have emerged in media reports over the years.

In 1987, newspapers reported that Control Risks helped Japanese group Mitsui free its kidnapped Manila branch manager.

Nobuyuki Wakaoji was released unharmed after 137 days in captivity. He was abducted by the guerrilla group south of Manila on Nov. 15, 1986.

During the evening rush-hour in Bogota on Sept. 28, 1976, George Curtis, vice president of U.S. firm Beatrice Foods, was snatched by kidnappers.

They demanded a \$5 million ransom but, reports say, Control Risks bargained the kidnappers down to less than \$500,000 after eight months of negotiations.

Mr. Curtis was freed, thrown out of a car in a Bogota backstreet.

Mr. Adams-Dale, a former SAS major who was jailed for 10 weeks during one early mission for Control Risks to Bogota, says the firm is no longer solely run by SAS daredevils.

Directors and staff also come from the worlds of banking, industry, law, accountancy, engineering and academia.

Services include bodyguards and security systems, and the company also deals with cases involving product contamination, fraud, extortion and business sabotage.

It also specialises in staff vetting, debugging and bomb disposal, as well as supplying Control Risk information.

"SAS skills are very relevant in some areas but not in others," says Mr. Adams-Dale. "We are not a cowboy outfit."

With gold-rimmed spectacles and a pin-striped suit, Mr. Adams-Dale is the height of English gentility.

Now in his mid-40s, he spent 14 years in the army, four on active service with the SAS.

Formed during World War II to raid behind German lines, the SAS was experienced in what they called "kemi meeni" operations. The phrase is Swahili for a snake slithering through grass.

On avoiding kidnapping, Mr. Adams-Dale says: "It's no use just totting a tough-looking gentleman. It's attention to detail, good organisation, nothing flashy."

Most abductions occur near to the home or the workplace, so routes should be varied, cars checked, addresses kept secure, servants checked and procedures learned, the company advises.

About 60 per cent of kidnappings end in a ransom being paid, 20 per cent of the victims are rescued, some escape and 10 per cent die, mainly in cross-fire between rescuers and kidnappers, statistics show.

Mr. Pankin is expected to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Paris later this week. There was no explanation why such a meeting could not be held in Syria and Jordan — the countries they visited simultaneously over the weekend — and Egypt where both arrived Monday.

In arrival comments to the press at Cairo, Mr. Pankin said: "The constructive position of those participating in the conference whom we have met gives hope that the peace process will bring peace to the Middle East."

Palestinian delegates due here

(Continued from page 1)

have agreed that East Jerusalem will be represented in the Jordanian side as members of the Jordanian delegation and/or advisory committees.

Dr. Khatib said Monday: "The delay in the announcement of the list is due to two factors. The first is that there is an agreement among all parties involved on the timing of the release of the names of the delegations. Secondly, that there has been no final (Palestinian) agreement on the list."

Dr. Khatib said that the Palestinians are seriously discussing the composition and the mechanism of the working of the Palestinian delegation. "The Palestinian performance at the conference will largely depend on these two elements," he said.

So far the PLO and the Palestinian leadership in the territories have agreed to set up a steering committee and a leading committee.

The steering committee, which will be based in the same city of the negotiations but not in the conference hall, reportedly constitutes Faisal Hussein, Hanan Ashrawi, Sari Nusseibeh, (from inside the occupied territories), and Dr. Rashid Al Khalidi, a prominent Palestinian academic, Anis Al Qassem, a legal expert who had lived in Kuwait, and Kamel Mansour, a researcher and writer — representing Palestinians in the diaspora.

A Palestinian official said Monday that Mr. Kamel might replace Dr. Nusseibeh on the steering committee, which is believed to act as the coordinator between the PLO and Palestinian delegation.

Dr. Khatib said that the leading committee will constitute of some members of the steering committee, the delegation, including Dr. Shafi, and "other Palestinian experts."

"The leading committee is the core of the whole operation," Dr. Khatib explained.

Dr. Khatib said that he has very limited expectations from the conference. "We have had to accept such conditions," he said.

In an interview with Agence France Presse, Dr. Abdul Shafi expressed the same pessimistic view. "I support our leadership's decision (to take part in

the peace conference)... even though I am fully convinced that we are taking part within a very negative context... within a framework that meets the Israeli demands."

But Dr. Abdul Shafi went on to say that negative terms should not "prevent the Palestinians from pressing for our national rights and demanding the world to recognise our right to self-determination."

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Bush anxious to avoid economic blues in '92

By Gene Gibbons
Renter

WASHINGTON — As George Bush enters the 1992 presidential election campaign he is clearly nervous about the U.S. economy and is groping for a way to neutralise the issue.

After weeks of brainstorming with his advisers Mr. Bush will likely push for a capital gains tax cut on investment profits and other measures, previously spurned by Congress and repackaged as a new programme, to spur the economic recovery.

The White House initiative might be unveiled this week and analysts are sceptical that it will have an immediate impact.

"I think a growth package that will encourage investment is needed, but I don't believe it will have any effect by 1992," says Jim Jones, a former Democratic chairman of the House of Representatives Budget Committee who now heads the American stock exchange.

He expects Mr. Bush to continue to press for lower interest rates to stimulate the economy in the short term and thinks he will get the support of Federal Reserve central bank board Chairman Alan Greenspan. "Alan Greenspan has been political, as well as economic, instincts," Mr. Jones says.

"I believe there will be a perception of recovery in 1992 everywhere in America except the northeast... (and this) will instill confidence," the former Oklahoma congressman says.

Former presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter were both denied re-election partly by so-called pocketbook issues.

Mr. Carter devised the "misery index" — the unemployment and inflation rates to throw Mr. Ford on

Sampdoria smothered by own success

ROME (AP) — No one said that Sampdoria of Genoa would have an easy time repeating last season's Italian first division soccer championship.

Then again, no one said that it would be so hard. "When God doesn't give you a hand, things will always take a bad turn," said Sampdoria's Yugoslav coach Vujadin Boskov after his team lost 2-0 to Atalanta of Bergamo to home Sunday.

"All in all, we deserved to lose."

In Sunday's top match, Juventus of Turin nipped Napoli 1-0 to climb into a first place tie with AC Milan at 10 points.

Milan, which downed Parma 2-0, still has one match to make up.

Napoli, Torino, AS Roma, and Inter are tied for second place with nine points.

Life has been anything but easy for Sampdoria this year. After winning its first league title last season, the defending Italian champion has lost three of its first seven matches. In comparison, Sampdoria lost just three times in 34 matches last season. And at

seven points, the Genoa club is four points off last year's championship pace.

"Sampdoria is experiencing the typical letdown of a team coming off a season where everything just seemed to fall into place," observed journalist Italo Cacciari on the Sunday sports television show Domenica Sport.

"Last season, each player played and ran and fought as hard as he could. This year, as champions, the team seems to think it can obtain the same results without the same effort. It's not a conscious decision. But you tend to remember the success more than you remember the sweat that went into it."

Sampdoria's season opener, a 3-2 away loss to Cagliari, hardly augured well for Boskov and company. But the team bounced back with three wins and a draw in four matches including consecutive 4-0 thrashings of Inter and Ascoli. Then two weeks ago, Sampdoria fell 2-1 to Parma. And at Genoa's Luigi Ferraris Stadium, where Sampdoria had not lost in nine months and had not surrendered a goal this season,

Boskov's team was thoroughly outplayed by Atalanta.

"We lost because we kept making the same mistake," said Boskov after the contest. "Instead of working the ball to the wings, we kept trying to break through the middle. And this just opened the door for the Atalanta fast break."

Brazilian forward Carlos Bianchi and Argentine winger Claudio Caniggia, perhaps the league's swiftest attack tandem, were always a step ahead of defenders Pietro Vierchowod and Moreno Mannini. Sampdoria forwards Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Mancini were largely contained by Atalanta's Carlo Corradini and Sergio Porrini.

"I've never seen Vialli and Mancini marked so closely," Boskov said.

Bianchi put Atalanta into the lead on a splendid goal in the 52nd minute. Fielding a pass with his back to the Sampdoria net, the speedy Brazilian pivoted to his right and let fly with a 20-metre drive that dipped beneath the outstretched arms of netminder Gianluca Pagliuca.

"At halftime, (Atalanta goal-tender Fabrizio) Ferron told me to shoot more often because the ball was very light and tended to do tricks. He was right."

Six minutes later, Ferron foiled Mancini on a penalty kick to preserve the Atalanta lead. "I knew that Mancini liked to shoot to the left of the goalkeeper, and it worked out that way," the Atalanta netminder said after the win.

At 67 minutes, Caniggia tapped in the rebound of another Bianchi shot to put Atalanta ahead 2-0, a lead that Atalanta protected until the final whistle. "It was the first time I had all my players healthy this season, and it showed," said Atalanta coach Bruno Giorgi after the win. "The secret of today's success? Tight defence and fast break."

Boskov is hardly ready to give up on another championship.

"How many points does Juventus have? Ten? And we have seven. There are still 27 matches left to play. These three losses will make us think. But that's all. It's not close to being over."

Husseini wins YWCA juniors tennis title

By Aileen Hannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The juniors singles and the mixed doubles final matches Monday ended the week-long fifth annual tennis tournament organised by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Khaled Al-Husseini scored a convincing 6-1, 6-2 victory over Ramzi Al-Halabi to win the juniors singles title.

The mixed doubles title was won by Sybil Krauer and Wael Karadshah who easily beat Maggie Kwar and Paul Habis 6-1, 6-1.

In the finals of the other events played earlier in the week, Laith Al-Azzoumi and Zaid Hanania beat Ramzi Al-Halabi and Basel

Yaghnam 6-4, 6-2 to win the juniors doubles title.

In the ladies doubles final Sybil Krauer and Erica Pratt overwhelmed Maggie Kwar and Reem Habayeb 6-0, 6-1.

In an exciting match Ahmad Shoman and Ibrahim Al-Hadid beat Ahmad Maher and Tala Maher 7-5, 7-5 to win the men's doubles title.

Over 40 players took part in the tournament which began Tuesday, Oct. 15 at the YWCA tennis courts.

Monday's finals were attended by Queen Noor who distributed the prizes to the winners of the tournament's six events.

The YWCA had a surprise for its veteran players by presenting them with special awards, for their sportsmanship and continued support.

China continues to dominate Asian Athletics tournament

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

(AP) — Zhu Yuqing claimed the title of Asia's top woman athlete Monday, breaking a meet record in the heptathlon, as China won seven of the day's 11 events in the 9th Asian Athletics Championships.

Fellow Chinese Tian Yumei emerged as the fastest woman, winning the 100-metre dash. Qatar's Tala Mansur won the men's 100. Both, however, failed to match their meet record-breaking times in Sunday's semifinals.

With two days remaining in the five-day, 40-event meet, China had 13 gold medals to three for South Korea, two for Japan and one each for Qatar, Iran, Malaysia and North Korea.

Zhu amassed 6,231 points in the seven running and field events, breaking the heptathlon meet record of 6,042 set by China's Dong Yaping in 1989. Syria's G. Shohaa was second with 5,425 points.

Teammate Bi Zhong broke the 10-year-old meet record in the hammer throw with a heave of 69.90 metres. Japan's Shigenobu Marufushi had set the old mark of 69.62 Nabuhiro Todokiri of Japan won the silver medal Monday with a throw of 64.56.

North Korea, which has sent

only two athletes to the meet, also broke a meet record. Li Yong-Ae, won the women's long jump with a leap of 6.79 metres. China's Wang Zhihui set the old record of 6.70 in 1987.

In the women's 100, Tian won in 11.54 seconds and said, "It was too hot here. I was also running against the wind."

On Sunday, she ran an 11.32, better than the meet record of 11.39 set by P.T. Usha of India in 1985.

Pei Fang of China was second in Monday's final in 11.62 seconds.

In the men's race, Mansur won in a time of 10.29 seconds, with China's Chen Wenzheng second in 10.45. On Sunday, Mansur turned in a 10.24, beating the meet record of 10.28 set by Chen Zheng of China in 1985.

Other Chinese winners Monday were Li Jingxue in the women's 10-kilometre walk, Zhang Yu in the women's 100-metre hurdles, Huang Zhihong in the women's shot put and Zhong Huanli in the women's 3,000 metres.

Lee Jin-Taek put South Korea ahead of Japan in the gold medal standings by winning the men's high jump with a leap of 2.22 metres. Japan's Shigeki Toyoshima was second with a jump of 2.19 metres.

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The Braves, who will be most happy to leave behind the hanky-waving, decibel-busting Metrodome crowd, will send 21-year-old lefty Steve Avery — the Most Valuable Player in the National League playoffs — against right-hander Scott Erickson in Game Three.

Sky Classic wins Rothmans International

TORONTO (R) — Sky Classic ridden by Pat Day won the Rothmans International over 1-1/2 miles (2.4 km) on turf at Toronto's Woodbine Track Sunday in a record time of two minutes 27.8 seconds.

The four-year-old colt, a firm favourite at 3-5, relished the firm going and chilly weather to become the first Canadian-bred horse to win the race since He's A Smoothie in 1967.

But the home crowd's cheers were muted by the sight of Izvestia, which won the Canadian Triple Crown in 1990, pulling up

lame in front of the grandstand. Sky Classic, which won \$550,000 for his owner Ernie Samuel of Sam-Son Farm, may now go on to compete in the Breeders' Cup at Churchill Downs on Nov. 2.

The chestnut gelding strongly, pulling away to win by a length and a half from Panoramic, ridden by Steve Cauthen and owned by the Alpha Khan. In third place, a length back, was Tot Of Rum, ridden by Daniel David and from the same stable as the winner.

Pat Day had difficulties re-training his winning mount.

"We went into the lead 3-1/4 furlongs out, a lot quicker than I wanted to be there," Cauthen said.

"When he went to the lead he put his ears up and relaxed on around the turn. I felt I had a good bit of horse left under me."

Meanwhile Izvestia was destroyed after breaking his left hind leg in three places. "That's as bad a break as we've seen this year," said Veterinarian Dr. Robert McMartin, who recommended destroying Izvestia. "There's no way to surgically repair this."

PSV inflicts season's 1st defeat on Ajax

AMSTERDAM (R) — Two goals from Zlatan Ibrahimovic helped PSV Eindhoven beat old rivals Ajax 3-2 in a thrilling duel Sunday, inflicting the first defeat of the season on the Amsterdam side.

Kahusha opened the scoring after 18 minutes, meeting a hard cross from the right with a volley from ten metres out that had Ajax keeper Stanley Menzo flat-footed.

Brazilian international Romario increased PSV's lead two minutes later, beating a defender before sliding in a low right-foot shot beneath Menzo.

Ajax fought back and in the 30th minute striker Dennis Bergkamp broke free and powered a right-foot shot past PSV goalkeeper Hans Van Breckelen.

Minneapolis (R) — Part-time third baseman Scott Leius, launched a tie-breaking home run in the eighth inning to lift the Minnesota Twins to a 3-2 victory over the Atlanta Braves and a two games to none lead in the World Series.

Minnesota managed only three other hits in the game against masterful Atlanta starter Tom Glavine but one of them was a two-run homer in the first inning by designated hitter Chili Davis.

The Braves, who had eight

Home runs carry Twins past Braves

hits, failed to cash in on two great scoring chances, one of them dying on a controversial umpiring decision on a tag play made with a move more likely seen in a wrestling match.

Kevin Tapani pitched eight innings for the win and relief ace Rick Aguilera struck out three in the ninth for his second save in two nights.

"Glavine pitched such a great game all night," Leius said. "I was just trying to get on base."

After I hit it, I just concentrated on touching all the bases."

The best-of-seven series now shifts to Atlanta for the next three games starting on Tuesday.

The Braves, who will be most happy to leave behind the hanky-waving, decibel-busting Metrodome crowd, will send 21-year-old lefty Steve Avery — the Most Valuable Player in the National League playoffs — against right-hander Scott Erickson in Game Three.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Stich wins Vienna tournament

VIENNA (AP) — Michael Stich repeated his straight-set victory over Jan Siemerink of a week ago, beating the Dutchman 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 to win the \$250,000 CA Trophy. It was Stich's fourth title this season and fifth overall and the 171 points for the victory would likely move him past Jim Courier into third on the ATP Tour computer rankings. "I did what was basically necessary," Stich said. "I knew that Jan could do me no harm."

Portuguese dominate Lisbon Marathon

LISBON (AP) — Mario Sousa set a personal best of two hours, 15 minutes and 21 seconds Sunday to win the Lisbon Marathon as Portuguese runners dominated in fine autumn weather along the banks of the River Tagus. Portuguese men swept the top three and its women the first two in the 42.195-kilometre race that drew 1,200 runners and finished in front of the city's Jeronimos Monastery. Gilberto Fernandes fell off Sousa's closing pace with 2 kilometres remaining and finished seven seconds behind Sousa, while Jose Santos was third 61 seconds behind Sousa but nine seconds ahead of the Soviet Union's Alexander Emnachev. Rita Barrolho won the Women's race to set a new course record of 2 hours, 38 minutes and 39 seconds. Monica Gama finished second in 2 hours, 40 minutes and 38 seconds, and Czeslawa Mendiewicz of Poland took third place in 2 hours, 44 minutes and 26 seconds.

Atletico Madrid tops Spanish League

MADRID (R) — Atletico Madrid went to the top of the Spanish soccer first division Sunday by inflicting Real Oviedo's first home defeat for 18 months. Atletico won 1-0 — their sixth consecutive victory — to captured the lead from Real Madrid, who fell to second place after drawing 1-1 at home to defending champions Barcelona Saturday. Juan Vizcaino fired Atletico's winner in the 53rd minute from pass by Paulo Futre. Real Burgos' goalkeeper Agustin Elduayen saved a late penalty against visitors Real Valladolid to help his team stay third in the table.

Williams retains boxing title

WILLIAMSON (AP) — Light heavyweight champion Charles Williams felt some pain in his eighth successful title defence, but it was the kind boxers must endure. "I'm glad they stopped it when they did," Williams told his trainers. "I could feel it in my right hand when I was hitting him." Williams' hand probably didn't hurt as much as sixth-ranked contender Fred Delgado's head.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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STRIPTHEASE SHOW

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 6 5 3
♥ A J 10 2
♦ A K
♣ A 8 3
WEST EAST
♠ Q 10 9 4 ♠ J 8
♥ K 4 3 ♥ 9 7 6
♦ 9 6 3 2 ♦ J 10 8 7 5
♣ 7 4 ♣ Q J 6

SOUTH
♠ A K 7 2
♥ Q 8 5
♦ Q 4
♣ K 10 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♥ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
4 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠
For a perfect elimination, you need to strip all the side suits before throwing in one of the opponents. But there are times when you cannot eliminate all the suits, either because of a lack of trumps or because you cannot afford to surrender a trick. Your one hope, then, is that a partial elimination will succeed.

North had a very fine hand, but was a little aggressive. The three low

spades and the fact the club support was only moderate should have suggested caution. At North's third turn we would have preferred three no trump. A poor plan was made even worse by the fact the diamond queen was a wasted value.

West chose to lead a diamond, and declarer found himself looking at an apparently sure loser in each of the black suits. However, South was not one to lower the flag without a fight.

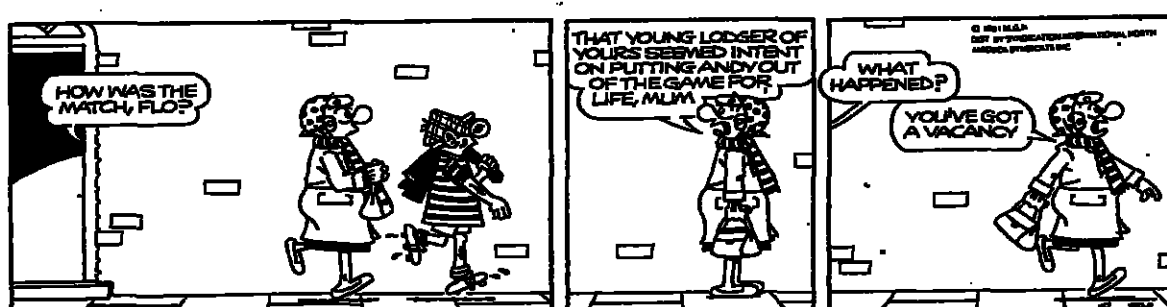
After winning the king of diamonds, declarer cashed the ace-king of trumps and breathed a sigh of relief when the suit divided favorably. Next came a low heart to the ten, and another burble was crossed when that held. A spade to the king provided the entry for another heart finesse. Declarer then completed his groundwork by cashing the ace of diamonds and spades and then leading the queen of hearts.

The 3-3 heart break permitted declarer to discard a spade loser on the 13th heart. East discarded a diamond on this trick, briefly postponing the moment of truth. Declarer, excited with a trump and East, down to nothing but diamonds, was forced to lead that suit, enabling declarer to pitch his remaining spade while ruffing in dummy. Six clubs, bid and made!

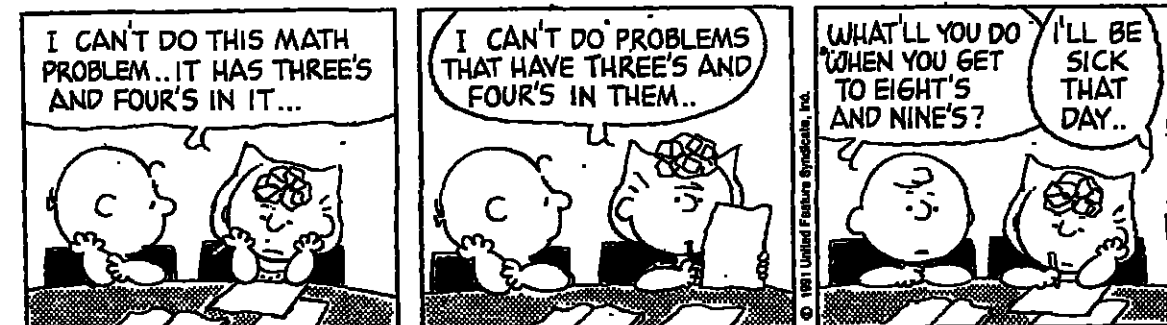
Sampras gains victory in Lyon

LYON (AP) — Second-seed Pete Sampras of the United States dominated France's Olivier Delatre, 6-1, 6-1, to win the \$500,000 Lyon Grand Prix Sunday. With a strong first serve, Sampras made his case for inclusion on the U.S. team in the Davis Cup final against France, winning his third title this year. "My serve is the kind of shot that is the base of my game. It definitely does a lot," said Sampras. "I've played better in the past. Today I didn't play as well as I expected. I wasn't hitting the ball well. But Olivier wasn't playing too good either." Delatre lasted less than an hour against Sampras, ranked No. 7 on the ATP Tour. The 57th-ranked Olivier was a wild card in the main draw but upset No. 1 seed and top Frenchman Guy Forget in the first round and Spain's Sergi Bruguera in the semifinals.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Winding up what you had already placed in motion or making a fresh new start towards gaining an ambition that has until now eluded you will be uppermost in your thoughts at this moment.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can make appointments with all kinds of persons for you now have it in your power to show them your own abilities and to get their support.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are able to look into all kinds of reports to make them work to your benefit and satisfaction by the clearness and lucidity of your thinking.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are able to find almost anything you desire of a personal nature, and you can also get the good will of allies who value your good will, active aid.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You now have a chance to round out that knowledge you need by consulting with an expert who is very confidential in expending data you require.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) An alive and active friend whose mind seems to jump all over the place nevertheless has the ideas that can be most helpful to you in gaining your ends.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make sure to send letters or communications to any in power

who are able to understand and start this time right with the career backing you wish.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever means the most to do that requires a considerable amount of expertise is excellent now so show your ability to understand all phases of any problem.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the day for you to show you are the one who does act in a cooperative and helpful fashion to those you regard as partners.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) The project you are involved in is not going to wait and if you get it done right away you will get the good will of important associates.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you have every kind of chance to have a very happy day if you avoid dawdling about and enjoy the amusements and events that delight you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You now find that you start the day best by coming to a better awareness of what your own character desires and how you can operate most effectively.

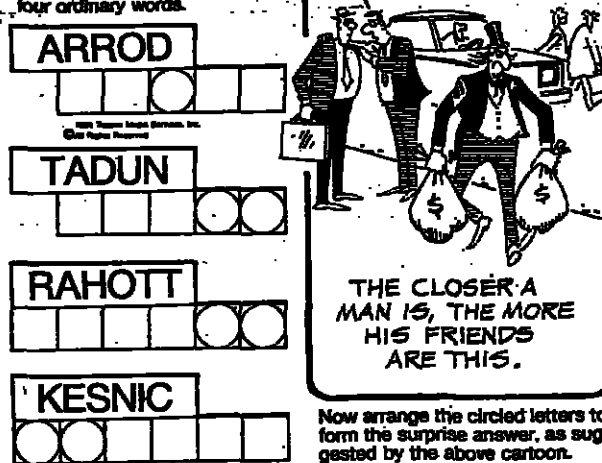
THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

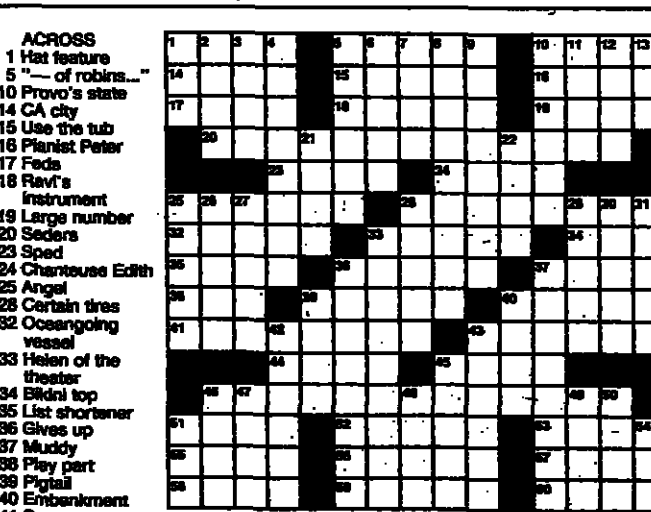


JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



THE Daily Crossword by Henry Salschander



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 18/10/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date 21/10/91
Sterling Pound*	1.7265	1.7210
Deutsche Mark	1.6873	1.6917
Swiss Franc	1.4755	1.4809
French Franc	5.7515	5.7600**
Japanese Yen	129.85	130.60
European Currency Unit	1.2135	1.2125**

* USD Per 500
** European Opening @ 8.00 a.m. GMT

Intercontinental Interest Rates Date: 21/10/91

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.125	5.40	5.25	5.50
Sterling Pound	10.45	10.18	10.12	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.72	9.51	9.51	9.51
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.25	8.12	8.12
French Franc	8.87	9.06	9.12	9.18
Japanese Yen	6.45	6.25	5.95	5.59
European Currency Unit	9.82	9.78	9.78	9.68

Forward Rates Date: 21/10/91

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	363.35	7.10	Silver	4.77	0.092

Interbank bid rates for immediate delivery U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 21/10/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.685	0.687
Sterling Pound	1.1787	1.1846
Deutsche Mark	0.4051	0.4071
Swiss Franc	0.4689	0.4692
French Franc	0.1188	0.1194
Japanese Yen	0.5259	0.5285
Dutch Guilder	0.3594	0.3612
Swedish Krona	0.1105	0.1111
Italian Lira	0.0542	0.0546
Belgian Franc	0.0197	0.0198

Other Currencies Date: 21/10/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.787	1.797
Lebanese Lira	0.0777	0.0774
Saudi Riyal	0.1824	0.1834
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1858	0.1868
Egyptian Pound	0.205	0.212
Omani Riyal	1.754	1.764
UAE Dirham	0.1856	0.1866
Greek Drachma	0.3696	0.3796
Cypriot Pound	1.455	1.465

CAB Index for Amman Financial Market

Index	19/10/91	Close	20/10/91	Close
All-Share	723.17		723.92	
Banking Sector	105.65		104.42	
Insurance Sector	125.54		125.82	
Industry Sector	152.59		153.41	
Services Sector	132.72		133.06	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

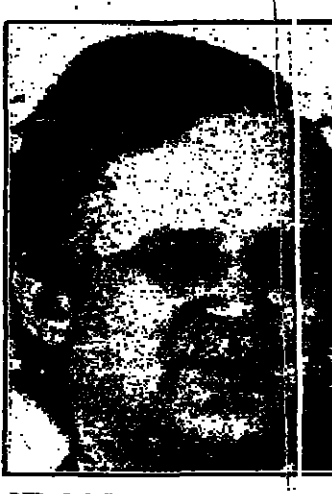
One Sterling	1.7212/22	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1271/76	Canadian dollar	
	1.6875/85	Deutsche marks	
	1.9025/35	Dutch guilders	
	1.4775/85	Swiss francs	
	34.70/74	Belgian francs	
	5.7550/600	French francs	
	1262/1263	Italian lire	
	130.45/55	Japanese yen	
	6.1500/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.6100/50	Norwegian crowns	
	6.5200/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	362.60/363.10	U.S. dollars	

Ex-Soviet premier denies big gold sales

MOSCOW (R) — Former Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, who retired last January, has denied he oversaw a massive sell-off of Soviet gold reserves, adding tight government controls prevented unauthorized sales.

In an interview with the daily Moskovsky Komsomolets, Mr. Ryzhkov said the Kremlin ordered the sale of 250 tonnes of gold in 1990, far less than his critics have charged.

And he said tight controls, including mandatory permission from President Mikhail Gorbachev, made illicit sales by Communist Party officials or others virtually impossible.



Nikolai Ryzhkov

There has been intense speculation over the size of current Soviet gold reserves, with a range of competing figures offered by senior economists and politicians. Western experts say they need the true figures to evaluate Soviet requests for aid.

Leading Soviet economist Grigory Yavlinsky announced this month that gold reserves were at an all-time low after big sales in 1989 and 1990.

He said reserves totalled only 240 tonnes, including gold held by the state bank but excluding foreign holdings. The West had previously estimated Soviet gold holdings at between 1,500 and 3,000 tonnes.

"On Jan. 1, 1986 gold reserves were at 587 tonnes. By January of 1990, that figure had reached 784 tonnes," Mr. Ryzhkov said.

"In 1990 it was decided to sell 250 tonnes of the metal, that is, two times less than the figure named by Yavlinsky," he added.

Mr. Ryzhkov said during his term there were no secret sales by the Communist Party, suggesting the discrepancy in the figures could be explained by differences in accounting methods.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin charged that about 350 tonnes of Soviet gold have been transferred abroad in the past six months.

"There is somewhat less gold in as much as some people have transferred gold abroad after all," Mr. Yeltsin told Russian television in an interview marking his first 100 days in office.

"As much as 350 tonnes over a short period of time — six months," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin gave no further details but his careful answer alluded to suggestions that members of the eight-man emergency committee which briefly deposed Mr. Gorbachev in August had sent gold out of the country.

Others have pointed the finger at senior members of the Communist Party, suspended in disgrace after the bungled putsch.

Mr. Yavlinsky put gold reserves at 240 tonnes, with a further 150 tonnes out of the country as collateral under swap arrangements.

Meanwhile, the Russian Federation's output of gold could double under proposals now mooted to privatise gold extraction, the daily newspaper Izvestia

has said.

"In terms of economic effectiveness, specialists say private gold extraction yields at least twice as much as state production," it said.

Mr. Yavlinsky explained that outstanding gold swaps, in which Moscow has effectively pawned its gold to foreign countries in return for cash, were about 110 tonnes.

The West had previously estimated Soviet gold holdings at between 1,500 and 3,000 tonnes and Izvestia commented: "We are suddenly shown up before the whole world, not just as beggars, but as naked beggars."

European analysts estimate total Soviet gold output this year at only 200 tonnes as the country's mining sector is in chaos. About 95 per cent of Soviet gold comes from the Russian Federation.

Izvestia said the unwieldy Soviet gold-extracting monopoly, Glavalmazoloto, was disbanded at the beginning of October and replaced in the Russian Federation by a parallel organisation, Rosalmazoloto.

But it said two production cooperatives, Volkhov and Stroitel, were among enterprises now planning to set up a powerful private gold-extraction consortium.

Singapore claims being third oil trading centre

SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore has become the world's third-largest oil trading centre, after New York and London, second minister for defence Lee Boon Yang has said.

Singapore sold 60 billion Singapore dollars (\$35.50 billion) in oil last year, nearly double the 32 billion Singapore dollars (\$18.93 billion) in 1989, Mr. Lee said.

Tax incentives had attracted 41 oil traders to Singapore, enabling the republic to become the major oil centre in the Asia-Pacific region, he added.

Economic reports raise fears of U.S. slip back into recession

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Unsettling news about the U.S. economy have ended with reports that housing starts had lost their vigour, raising new fears about the country sliding back into recession.

Construction of new houses and blocks of flats fell a modest 2.2 per cent in September, the Commerce Department has said, ending a mini-boom of five consecutive monthly increases.

Recent data suggest the economic recovery, which many economists believe began in spring after a year of recession, is uneven and halting.

As pessimism about the economy gained ground, the pressure has increased on President George Bush to take action to stimulate consumer and business activity. He met Thursday with Republican leaders and top bankers to discuss how to spur growth.

At best, analysts surveying the new data said, America's economy will grow slowly in the coming months, but not as fast as the 2.5 to three per cent rate forecast by the White House for the second half of this year.

"We think there will be enough stimulus from lower mortgage

rates and lower auto loans rates to keep growth positive. But it will be a very sad excuse for recovery, at best a half-speed recovery," said Cynthia Latta, an analyst at DRI/McGraw Hill, a Lexington, Massachusetts economic forecasting firm.

At worst, the economy will slip back into the recession which began in July 1990, a phenomenon referred to as a "double dip," the analysts said.

"I'd say there's about a 40 per cent probability" of a double-dip recession, said Marco Babic, senior financial analyst at Evans Economics in Washington.

Michael Boskin, President Bush's economic adviser, insisted on Thursday the economy was still on a "moderate growth path."

But a raft of largely negative economic statistics sparked many independent analysts to be less optimistic, although they cautioned that trends were confusing.

The only other real bright spot in the economy also faltered last week. Industrial production grew a scant one-tenth of a percentage point in September, flattening out after seven months of growth.

Perhaps the most negative report was a poll by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce which said business people are even more pessimistic about the future than they were in the recession.

Only 23.6 per cent expect the economy to turn around.

The chamber predicts that the third quarter just finished will show 1.8 per cent growth, but the economy will shrink in the fourth quarter and the first quarter of 1992.

"A small dip into recession is a 60 per cent probability. Thus, 'double-dip' becomes our official forecast," the chamber economic outlook, by economist William Macreynolds said.

Despite the official optimism, Mr. Bush met with Republican leaders to map out a strategy to spur growth. He later met with bankers, whom he frequently has urged to boost their lending and get consumers and businesses spending more.

Republicans fear that a stalled economy with persistent unemployment and rising prices could prove a blight on President Bush's otherwise rosy re-election chances next fall.

Senator Phil Gramm of Texas

said he thought a new "pro-growth" package would emerge from the White House early this week.

In other areas, U.S. consumer prices, buffeted by higher costs for energy, food and housing, jumped 0.4 per cent last month in the biggest inflation spurt since January.

The country's merchandise trade deficit also widened dramatically as overseas demand for American products took a nose-dive.

Economists blamed the worse-than-expected inflation number for the most part on temporary factors, but they worried that the other reports depicted a listless economic recovery losing what little momentum it had.

Manufacturing and export sales had been among the few bright spots as the economy has struggled to break free of the 1990-91 recession.

"This is not a good report card on the performance of the U.S. economy," said Allen Sinai, chief economist of the Boston Co. "We are seeing a fading of momentum on the industrial side of the economy along with higher inflation than we had been running."

World cereal harvest prospects worsen

ROME (AP) — Worldwide prospects for cereal harvests have worsened in the past month, a U.N. agency has reported, noting "unfavourable" growing conditions in parts of the Soviet Union as well as drought in the United States and problems in China.

"As a result, the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) forecasts of global cereal production in 1991 and world cereal supplies in 1991-92 have both been lowered," the Rome-based agency reported in its monthly Food Outlook bulletin.

In the Soviet Union, "reflecting drought damage to the spring wheat crops, output of wheat in 1991 is expected to decline by 17 per cent to 90 million tons and that of coarse grains to 97 million tons, 16 per cent less than last year," FAO forecast.

FAO added: "The final harvest outcome will also depend on weather during the harvest when serious problems are expected in view of shortages of machinery, spare parts and fuel."

The forecast also said that in Iraq, "large sections of the population face imminent and acute food shortages, which, if not averted through timely intervention, will cause massive starvation."

It also sounded a warning for food supplies in the Horn of Africa, and noted that South Africa and Zimbabwe have no export surplus due to poor harvest.

In Asia, the early development of monsoon has deteriorated the harvest outlook, it said.

Globally, FAO lowered its forecast for world cereal production by 15 million tons from last month's figure, to 1,914 billion tons. That, it said, was two per cent less than last year's production.

Brazil says it can raise \$18b from privatisation

BANGKOK (R) — Brazil could raise up to \$18 billion from privatisation and might reduce its external debt by even more through debt-to-equity conversions, Finance Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira has said.

Mr. Marques told reporters that Brazil aimed to privatise one state enterprise every two weeks over the next year.

He believed privatisation of the Usiminas Steel Mill, now scheduled for Oct. 24 after an attempt failed in September, would mark a watershed. Usiminas is the first of 27 companies slated for privatisation.

Asked by how much the debt could be cut by debt-to-equity conversions, Mr. Marques said: "It's probably considerably more than that," but since domestic and foreign debt instruments could be used it was hard to give a detailed forecast.

Investors make debt-to-equity swaps by buying debt instruments at a discount and then exchanging

them for local currency at the central bank at a favourable rate. The proceeds are then used to buy companies being privatised.

Brazil has a \$50 billion domestic debt, which is comparable to its \$50 billion exposure to commercial banks. It has been negotiating with its commercial bank creditors since August.

Mr. Marques said he was confident Brazil could meet stringent fiscal and monetary targets — a condition for obtaining an IMF standby loan which IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus expects to be approved by the end of the year.

"We need steadfastness and persistence because we want to go back to a market economy," Mr. Marques said. "We do not want another shock treatment which holds down inflation for three months and then comes unstuck."

Brazil has launched successive assaults on inflation with limited success because of failure to track the public-sector deficit.

He did not believe a constitutional reform redefining the relationship between state governments and the central authority was a necessary condition for meeting economic targets agreed in outline with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The relationship with the state government depends on constitutional amendments but they are in financial equilibrium because the central government does not allow them to borrow," he said.

Mr. Marques said \$8 billion had flowed into Brazil in the first nine months of 1991, up from \$5.6 billion in the whole of 1990, and he expected a trade surplus of \$12 billion for the year.

The recent lifting of a price freeze had triggered a surge in inflation, which rose above 16 per cent per month in September.

"This is not a brilliant figure, of course," Mr. Marques said. "But it was part of the process of unfreezing prices."

Official says economy will bounce next year

Albania hits rock bottom

BANGKOK (R) — The economy of Albania, Europe's poorest country, has hit rock bottom but Deputy Prime Minister Gramoz Pashko forecasts it will bounce.

"I don't think there will be a big fall in living standards in Albania. The fall has already happened. There's no further room to go," Mr. Pashko told Reuters.

But he forecast the economy could start to pick up rapidly next year once economic reforms started to take effect as the country responded to injections of foreign aid.

Albania was East Europe's last convert to political pluralism, ending more than four decades of orthodox Stalinism last year.

Mr. Pashko said gross national product would drop 35 per cent this year but output could rise by 15 per cent in the first quarter of next year over the previous quarter.

"This is a big achievement. It means our programme of reforming the economy has been approved in principle by the IMF," he said referring to Albania joining the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"It will give a sense of hope to Albanians and show that everything is going as was expected with the integration of Albania into the world economy," he said.

Albania last week formally joined the IMF with a membership quota, or share, of around 25 million Special Drawing Rights (\$30 million).

Once it has agreed an economic programme with the fund, it will seek a standby arrangement, Mr. Pashko said.

The amounts that can be borrowed from the fund are related to the size of the quota. Typically, a member can draw 70 to 100 per cent of its quota a year over three years of a programme.

Albania may also be eligible for resources under the enhanced structural adjustment facility (ESAF), which provides loans at extremely favourable rates to poor countries. The IMF's policy-making Interim Committee agreed earlier that the IMF should review and possibly expand the list of countries eligible for ESAF.

Albania will seek a structural adjustment loan from the World Bank, for instance to help privatisation, Mr. Pashko said.

In the medium term, he said, he hoped such funds could amount to \$10 to \$20 a head, a total of \$30 million to \$60 million.

"I think the standby can be operational next June. It will cover some of our basic needs for importing raw materials," Mr. Pashko said, adding that the European Community (EC) and other rich countries would help in the meantime.

Teacher for Kindergarten Required

- 1) College graduate
 - 2) Under 30 yrs (female)
 - 3) Spoken, written English and Arabic
- Please send your C.V. in English (with photo & telephone No.) to:
P.O. Box: 82622, Amman
* Document will not be returned.

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The above cars are available for inspection and bidding at the American Embassy Motor Pool, near the 3rd Circle, behind the YWCA on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the 22, 23 & 24 of Oct., 1991.
Between the hours 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each day.
Refundable 20% cash deposit required on all bids.

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AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL

Invites applications for the following position:
Full-time History teacher within the Social Studies Department, starting 12 January 1992. Teaching is throughout the Senior School, grades 7-12, and will include IGCSE and the International Baccalaureate.
Applicants should have a strong background in Middle Eastern History, and be English speakers or bilingual in English and Arabic.
Application forms may be obtained from the school's reception desk, phone: 845572, 847191 and should be returned by Wednesday 30 October 1991.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

RED HEAT

Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel: 675571

1. SOMERSAULT TIME PLAY

Shows: daily 8:30 p.m.

2. Children play

THE TREASURE AND THE SEA

Shows: daily 10:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Girls Just Want To Have Fun

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

Tom Selleck in

HER ALIBI

Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

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'Cataclysm' of new fighting wrecks Croatian tourist resorts

ZAGREB (R) — Fierce fighting has wrecked four tourist towns near the Croatian port of Dubrovnik and shattered a new ceasefire in the rebel republic, Croatian radio said Monday.

A cold snap and driving rain tempered fighting in Croatia Sunday night and media reports suggested the main battlefronts in the almost four-month conflict over Croatian independence moves were relatively quiet Monday.

But artillery barrages, mortar duels and automatic arms fire killed 18 people over the weekend and broke a ceasefire ordered Saturday by Croatia and the Yugoslav army, which backs Serbs opposing the republic's independence declaration.

Croatian radio described clashes Sunday near Dubrovnik, a major Adriatic tourist centre, as a "cataclysm."

"The world famous resorts of Zupa, Kupari, Plat and Mlini are unrecognisable. Not a single hotel is still whole. The military resort in Kupari no longer exists," a Croatian radio reporter in the Dubrovnik region said, referring to a nearby hotel complex reserved for the armed forces.

"Despite orders for a ceasefire, fighting continued at a number of locations in Croatia Sunday...dashing hopes for a more permanent truce," Tanjug News Agency reported.

Dubrovnik and its historic medieval old town have been cut off by an army siege for some weeks. EC sources said the Hotel Argentina, where EC monitors are staying, was hit by machinegun fire and the city suburbs were shelled.

Shells landed in the sea Sunday about 300 kilometres from the walls of the old city, known as the "pearl of the Adriatic."

Despite the apparent easing of fighting overnight, the ceasefire looked to have little or no more

chance of success than nine previous truces that have failed. More than 1,000 Croats and an unknown number of Serbs and federal soldiers have been killed in fighting since Croatia declared independence on June 25.

It is the worst fighting between the rival nationalities since World War II and threatens to engulf the whole of the Balkan country of 23.5 million in civil war.

Serbia and its three allies on the eight-member Yugoslav collective presidency accused Croatia of breaking the ceasefire accord worked out with the European Community at peace talks in the Hague Friday.

The representatives of Serbia, its provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina, and the Republic of Montenegro said Sunday Croatian forces had not abided by an agreement to lift blockades of federal army installations in the republic.

"It was stressed that the blockade had not been lifted in a single garrison — rather, that the blockade of several barracks in Croatia had been strengthened," they said after a presidency meeting boycotted by the other four republics.

Croatian radio said six people were killed in fighting near Dubrovnik Sunday.

The radio reported two new deaths from fighting in Sunday around the central city of Karlovac, about 40 kilometres south-west of the Croatian capital Zagreb.

The Croatian forces are heavily outnumbered and outnumbered but vow to fight on.

Wounded fighters and civilians from Vukovar, the rebel Croatian town besieged by the Yugoslav army, vowed Sunday their comrades would never surrender despite terrible conditions and dwindling supplies.

The defiant Croats were among 109 seriously wounded, mostly



A Croatian tank, followed by infantry, moves to attack Serbian positions in Croatia.

police or guards, evacuated from Vukovar at the weekend in the first relief convoy to reach the town in almost two months.

"People are afraid, of course, but morale is amazingly high. The people know they may die. But they will never give in," said Jasminka Ahmedbegovic, a 22-year-old Croatian economics student.

"The centre is demolished and there are no whole buildings left," said Zvonko Gredelj, 36, a Croat Guardsman injured two weeks ago by mortar fire.

The return journey for the convoy, arranged by the French charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), from the town in north-east Croatia to makeshift hospitals in Milanovci and Djakovo west of Vukovar was a 13-hour nightmare.

The convoy was bogged down in mud, skirted potholes along back lanes and made an 80-kilometre detour. On the way one truck ran over a landmine, injuring two foreign nurses. No further evacuation convoys are expected.

Vukovar, across the Danube from Serbia, has been pounded by army artillery for two months and under a total siege for over three weeks.

Vukovar's resistance to the might of the army, which along with Serb guerrillas controls most of the surrounding area, has made the city a symbol for Croatian defiance.

Ms. Ahmedbegovic said townspeople cooked up what potatoes and peppers they had left in communal pots. There was little else to eat.

Clean water is in short supply and there is no electricity. Gredelj said there was daily hand to hand fighting between Croats and soldiers or Serb guerrillas at the town's edge.

But wounded Croatian fighters brought to Djakovo vowed stranded Vukovar would never fall, despite the odds, and said they would return, somehow, to help it when they recovered.

Most left wives and children behind.

Soviet parliament opens with 7 republics attending

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev, speaking Monday at the first session of a reconstituted Supreme Soviet legislature, called for urgent new measures to preserve the Soviet Union and prevent economic disintegration.

Mr. Gorbachev said a draft of a treaty to create a new union of sovereign states was being readied for consideration by the remaining 12 republics.

Just seven republics sent full delegations to the parliament, and only 224 deputies out of a total of about 450 showed up.

The Soviet leader called for accelerated reforms to halt "the growth of negative tendencies in the economy" and prevent the collapse of the financial system.

Among the most urgent problems are: How to survive the winter, how to provide food and heat and power for the people," Mr. Gorbachev said.

A food agreement has been signed and measures to provide fuel have been drafted. "The Supreme Soviet should use its authority and capacity to keep under control the implementation of these decisions," he said.

He also said the state should take immediate steps to stabilise the ruble, reform taxes, give support to private businesses, and make "a decisive breakthrough" in moving to a market economy.

Mr. Gorbachev further said any aid from the West should be given to farmers. "This would give the quickest benefits to the people," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev urged the 12 remaining republics, and in particular the Ukraine, to adopt a new union of sovereign states.

As long as the question of the union is unresolved, he said, "my programme will stay on the level of wishful thinking."

However, Mr. Gorbachev was optimistic that agreement on preserving the union would be reached. "The feelings are strong in society, and they are growing in favour of a new union state, in which the sovereignty of republics is guaranteed."

Prime Minister John Major told a news conference all 50 states agreed on the goal of encouraging constitutional talks to create a democratic and non-racial South Africa.

"There is no difference about the end game — the difference is only about the pace at which sanctions will be removed," he said.

The conference has agreed to a

Indian killer quake toll hits 375 and feared rising

LUCKNOW, India (R) — The death toll from a powerful earthquake that shattered several towns in the Himalayan foothills of north India rose to 375 Monday with reports from scores of remote villages still to come.

Most of the known deaths so far were in the town of Uttarkashi, some 300 kilometres north-east of Delhi and close to the epicentre of the early Sunday quake, officials said.

But a much higher toll was feared after army helicopters reported back from trips around 400 villages scattered in the hills and cut off by landslides the tremor triggered.

The helicopters were mobilised Monday morning to reconnoitre the villages as progress on land was almost impossible, the official said.

Landslides often strike during the annual monsoon and officials said they feared entire communities may have vanished in the earthquake.

The villages are normally reached only by rough roads often washed away by monsoon rains.

In Uttarkashi, a town of 50,000 people, at least 300 died. More than 3,000 buildings in the town collapsed into rubble or were badly damaged, officials said.

Another 60 bodies had been dug out of the rubble in the adjacent district of Tehri, they said.

Senior policeman D.P. Sinha said 375 bodies had been recovered and more than 1,800 people were in hospital.

"But who knows how many thousands we will be counting in eventually?" Mr. Sinha said of the injured.

The problems of rescuers were eased slightly Monday when a road into Uttarkashi was repaired and vehicles carrying relief

goods and rescue tools were able to move in for the first time since the devastating tremor.

Explosives experts blew a gap in a landslide that blocked a river and formed a dam that could have burst and unleashed a flash flood, officials said.

Officials were hesitant in predicting a final toll. "We should have a clearer picture later today when the helicopters have examined the hill villages and reported back," Sinha said.

"These are scattered villages, easily cut off and landslide prone. Entire villages have been washed away in the past and we fear we will find many bodies under rubble."

Helicopters had already spotted 200 people, including some foreign tourists, cut off in the village of Bujhwasa some 10,500 feet (3,200 metres) above sea level, officials said.

The road to the village had vanished and the survivors might have to be evacuated by helicopter, they said.

The earthquake ripped out power lines, destroyed bridges and roads as Hindus, 80 per cent of India's 850 million people, were celebrating the main festivals of their religious year.

It was felt in western Nepal and in New Delhi, where it sent people fleeing into the streets.

New Delhi's Seismological Observatory measured the quake at 6.1 on the open-ended Richter Scale in an area subject to tremors created by northward movement of the Indian subcontinent squeezing the Himalayas against the Tibetan plateau and pushing them slowly higher.

The last major earthquake struck the Himalayan foothills in 1988, killing at least 900 people in eastern Nepal and the adjacent Indian state of Bihar.

U.K., Commonwealth out of step on sanctions

HARARE (R) — Britain Monday again took a difference stance from its Commonwealth partners on South African sanctions, but avoided the clash that had soured previous summits.

Prime Minister John Major told a news conference all 50 states agreed on the goal of encouraging constitutional talks to create a democratic and non-racial South Africa.

"There is no difference about the end game — the difference is only about the pace at which sanctions will be removed," he said.

The conference has agreed to a

phased elimination of sanctions, with trade restrictions going when all-party constitutional talks start and those on investment, the most important, being lifted when a new constitution has been agreed.

Britain, which has already lifted most sanctions, argues that foreign investment should be allowed at once to help economic recovery in South Africa before a new government takes over.

Mr. Major said the economy was crippled by zero growth with a three per cent annual increase in births and seven million unemployed.

Rebels, troops clash on Cambodian border

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodian government forces and guerrillas clashed near the Thai border Monday, just two days before the scheduled signing of a peace agreement in Paris to end the civil war, a guerrilla faction said.

The fighting appeared to have been sparked by a dispute over control of cross-border trade. The sound of artillery fire could be heard in the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) issued a statement in Bangkok accusing the Phnom Penh government of launching a series of attacks Sunday then following up with an artillery-backed assault on a KPNLF outpost at Prey Monday.

Clashes were still going on, the statement said.

"These well-coordinated and large-scale offensives go far beyond local trade problems," it said.

The Bangkok Post Monday quoted government soldiers in the market town of Poi Pet as saying they were attacked on Sunday by KPNLF guerrillas after they tightened up on traders carrying goods to a guerrilla-controlled market.

The Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh and an alliance of three guerrilla factions have been observing a ceasefire prior to the signing of a peace accord in Paris Wednesday to end 13 years of civil war.

There have been sporadic reports of minor skirmishes and artillery barrages but no serious fighting recently.

Cross-border trade has flourished at the Poi Pet market since it opened in June under an unprecedented agreement between the Phnom Penh government and Thai authorities.

Smuggling and trade controlled by the guerrillas has suffered as result.

The Poi Pet market opened Sunday after a brief dispute the day before between Thai and Cambodian soldiers over the arrest of four Khmer cigarette traders.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of unexploded landmines and spreading banditry pose two of the biggest obstacles to the repatriation of 350,000 Cambodian refugees from camps in Thailand, a senior U.N. official said.

The need to clear mines is more urgent than ever, Bjorn Johansson, head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Phnom Penh, said Sunday.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Hanoi agrees to limited refugee deportation

HONG KONG (R) — Vietnam has agreed to allow the long-awaited forced repatriation of boat people, but the deal covers only a few of the 64,000 people in Hong Kong's camps, a government spokesman in the British colony said Monday. He said in a statement that the deal covered only "double backers" — Vietnamese who volunteered to go home and later came back to Hong Kong.

Weekend death toll in S. Africa hits 35

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least 35 people were killed in a weekend orgy of township violence across South Africa, striking another blow against an already-battered month-led peace accord, police said Monday. About 150 people have now died since the government, Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and its chief rival for political supremacy, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, signed a church — and business-backed blueprint for peace. A police spokesman said the force had launched a massive manhunt for a gang of about 20 men who shot dead seven blacks in a seemingly random attack at Phola township near the Transvaal province town of Ogies. He said nine people died in a vicious war for the right to run lucrative taxi from black settlements around Cape Town, seven of them when the taxis and the homes of operators were set alight by unknown arsonists.

More U.S. troops to pull out of Korea

SEOUL (R) — The United States has told South Korea that it aims to reduce its military presence from current troop levels of more than 40,000 to 30,000 by 1995, a South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman said Monday. "It is true that the United States had said that it wanted to cut its presence to 30,000 troops by the year 1995," he said. "However, we have asked that the issue be discussed again in the coming U.S.-South Korean security talks next month."

Space freighter links-up with Mir

MOSCOW (AP) — A cargo spacecraft docked the Mir space station Monday after failing in its first attempt to deliver supplies to two cosmonauts, the Soviet News Agency TASS said. TASS said the Progress M-10 spaceship linked up on the side of the manned station's adapter module. "I delivered fuel for the joint power unit, a ballistic capsule intended for returning to Earth, some scientific equipment, as well as drinking water," TASS said.

Fire breaks out in British submarine

LONDON (R) — Fire broke out in a British nuclear-powered submarine Sunday at a navy base at Faslane, Scotland. A spokesman for the base said it was a minor incident dealt with by the crew with no nuclear implications.

Sri Lankan troops poised to overrun Jaffna

COLOMBO (R) — Troops backed by air force bombers were poised to take the Tamil rebel-controlled town of Jaffna on Sri Lanka's northern peninsula, an independent newspaper said Monday. The key rebel stronghold, could fall "any moment now," the island quoted Jaffna Commander Brigadier Wijaya Wimalaratne as saying. Military sources in Colombo declined to comment. Troops have gained control of five islands off Jaffna and destroyed rebel bunkers and strategic outposts, Gen. Wimalaratne said. The military sources said only that rebels had fled the islands in Operation Valampuri, an offensive that began Friday.

Reagan returns to his Scottish roots

PAISLEY, Scotland (R) — Amid ceremony at Scotland's Blair Castle but apparently unaware of his bootlegging ancestry, Ronald Reagan became an honorary keeper of the keepers of the Quaich. They are a society of connoisseurs of Scotch whisky. Founded by top distillers, they also help promote the amber liquid from headquarters at Blair, ancestral seat of the 10th Duke of Atholl. However, Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, appeared unaware of the ancestral link between himself and the distilling business which the local Scots had dug up. They say one of his forebears was Johnnie Blue, the last moonshine distiller on the Scottish peninsula of Kintyre.

10 killed in California fire

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Firefighters Monday battled a roaring fire that swept out of the dry hills above Oakland and Berkeley and raced through well-to-do neighbourhoods, killing 10 people and destroying hundreds of homes, authorities say.

As-covered residents grabbed pets, photographs and other keepsakes before fire chased them from their homes Sunday.

Some people drove to safety through streets filled with flaming debris and lined with burning trees and homes.

"I didn't take my checkbook, nothing. There was nobody to help me think," said 77-year-old Piccola White, who fled with her great-grandson.

Among the victims were a family of five who died trying to escape their burning home. A firefighter and a police officer also were killed, said Alameda County supervisor Don Perata.

About 1,000 firefighters battled the blaze, which was reported about midday Sunday and moved quickly from street to street, then hill to hill, in Oakland and Berkeley neighbourhoods with panoramic views of San Francisco Bay. The fire made a deafening roar as it burned terrain parched by five years of drought.

Wildfires burned elsewhere in northern California and the west. Firefighters battled blazes in Colorado, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

U.N. investigator to seek access to Nobel winner

BANGKOK (R) — A U.N. human rights mission was due in Burma Monday to try to visit detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last week for standing up to a regime characterised by brutality.

The mission, led by Japanese university Professor Yozo Yokota, would spend three days in Rangoon, Western and Asian diplomats in Bangkok and Rangoon said.

A similar mission last year was denied access to Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi and other detained dissidents.

Diplomats in Burma said she has not been seen by outsiders since early this year, when she was spotted from overflying houses, gardening in her compound on Rangoon's University Avenue.

She was put under house arrest in July 1989 after her outspoken attacks on the ruling military junta, which gunned down thousands of people in crushing a mass uprising for democracy in 1988. It

has jailed or persecuted thousands of opponents.

Prof. Yokota will report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva. He declined to comment on his mission when contacted in Bangkok.

Earlier this year, diplomats at the United Nations said the junta had opposed Prof. Yokota's visit.

Last year it greatly restricted a U.N. mission, led by Japanese Professor Sadako Ogata, when it attempted to seek information on alleged rights violations the government has denied.

Last Monday, the Nobel committee in Norway awarded Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi its annual peace prize for her courage in standing up to what it described as "a regime characterised by brutality."

Human Rights groups, including the London-based Amnesty International, have catalogued numerous testimonies of sometimes fatal torture in Burma.

A senior member of Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi's National League

for Democracy (NLD) died in detention during Prof. Ogata's visit last November.

The junta said Mr. Maung Ko committed suicide. Relatives said the heavy bruising all over his body showed he had been tortured to death.

Diplomats said Prof. Ogata's confidential report was balanced but highly critical.

The NLD won the May, 1990 general election by a landslide but the junta has refused to hand over power and has arrested most NLD leaders.

The award of the peace prize to Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi has intensified international calls for the junta to release her and honour the election result.

Last year Sweden introduced a motion at the U.N. General Assembly criticising the junta's human rights record and expressing concern about its failure to step down.

It was withdrawn after opposition, but Sweden plans to reintroduce it this year.

A team of French doctors back from a visit to Burma said in Paris Friday they were denied access to Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi and quoted diplomats as saying her whereabouts were unknown.

"The foreign diplomatic community in Rangoon is extremely sceptical about press reports which assume she is still under house arrest at her home in Rangoon," said Professor Alain Deloche, of the international aid group Medecins Du Monde.

The French and Japanese ambassadors had sought to meet her but were rebuffed by the authorities, he said.

Though Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi's house near Rangoon's Inya Lake was guarded, there was no proof she was inside," Mr. Deloche said.

"We believe there are grounds for deep concern," he said.

Other diplomats in Rangoon say that although she has not been seen, they have no reason to believe she has been moved.

COLUMN

U.S. sailors start to repair Kuwait Zoo

KUWAIT (R) — American sailors started repair work Sunday at Kuwait Zoo, damaged in the Gulf war. Up to 800 sailors at the USS L.Y. Spear, a submarine tender which arrived in Kuwait Saturday, will spend two days working in the zoo and will also carry out repair work at a Kuwait school for the handicapped. Captain Jay Cohen told journalists touring his ship the sailors had volunteered. A zoo in Virginia has donated \$5,000 worth of equipment. "We will repair cages, remove debris and other work like fix doors at the zoo...we will also assist in repairing the handicapped school which was used by Iraqi soldiers," he said. Few animals remain at the zoo, still closed to the public.

Restored antique plane crashes into crowd, injures 3

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese plane designed a decade before the Wright Brothers pioneered powered flight has taken to the air for the first time, only to drift into a crowd of spectators, injuring three. Police said the reproduction light plane succeeded on its first flight at Yawatahama in western Japan Sunday, skimming one metre (three feet) above the ground for about 15 metres (50 feet). On a second take-off, the bee-like craft flew 15 metres (50 feet) above the ground, then crashed into a crowd of onlookers. One of the three injured broke her wrist. The pilot was unharmed. The plane had been built by a research group at Nippon University according to plans left by the late Chushichi Nomiya, who designed the plane in about 1893. The project stalled when the imperial army declined an invitation to build the plane. It was not until 1903 that Wilbur and Orville Wright wrote their names in the history books with their pioneering flight near the Kill Devil Hill, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

1st balloon files over Everest

KATHMANDU (R) — British and Australian-piloted hot-air balloons the height of seven-storey buildings flew over Mount Everest for the first time, radio monitors said. They said the 28-metre (91-foot) balloons drifted over the summit of the world's highest mountain and landed in Tibet after nearly two hours aloft. The monitors, listening in a Kathmandu hotel to radio communications from the balloons, said they took off from a high Nepali valley some 30 kilometres southwest of Everest just after dawn. After about 30 minutes in the air, the two balloons flew over the 8,848-metre (29,028-foot) summit of Everest, the monitors said. One balloon was piloted by Australian Chris Dewhurst, 43, from Melbourne, and co-piloted by Led Dickinson, 45, a British filmmaker from Bristol. In the other were pilot Andy Elson, a British engineer from Southampton, and photographer Eric Jones, who owns a cafe in Tremadog in north Wales.

5 men in lifeboat rescued after 11 days at sea

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Five fishermen who spent 11 days adrift in a life raft after their boat sank in the Pacific caught and ate a sea gull and rationed packets of water before they were rescued, one of them said. "We took it day by day, night by night. Every day we made it, we gave each other high-fives," Keith Pendleton, 23, of Lake Stevens, Washington, said Sunday by telephone from his room at Sitka Community Hospital. Mr. Pendleton and four others drifted in their raft after their 97-foot (30-metre) crab boat went down about 250 miles (400 kilometres) off British Columbia on Oct. 8. They were rescued by another fishing boat Saturday and were in good condition, the Coast Guard said. Mr. Pendleton said their boat had left Seattle and was headed for king crab fishing grounds when it began taking on water and sank within minutes. He said a fuel tank may have broken and flooded, causing the boat to capsize. The raft had drifted for two days when a storm struck and a wave tipped it over, Mr. Pendleton said. The fishermen lost all their food and most of their other supplies then, and all they had left were survival packets of water, he said.